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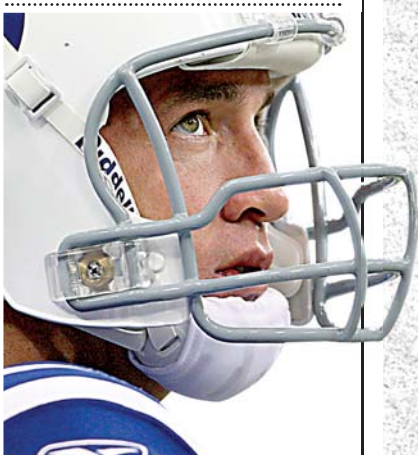
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Weekend

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A PASSING FANCY

The Colts and Saints
will be airing it out in
Sunday's Super Bowl **20**

UNBEARABLE

**Tai Shan breaks
hearts** as he begins
his journey to China **10**



THE LOVE STORY GURU

**'Dear John' pulls its
plot** from the oeuvre
of Nicholas Sparks **28**



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FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 37

READY?



**The forecast calls for
lots of snow — and the
usual dose of panic **9****

eo

EYE OPENERS

Thieves Conquer Tip Jar, Move on to the Big Money

A Butte, Mont., restaurant was burglarized three times in four days. The first burglary of Casagrande's happened sometime overnight Friday. The suspect or suspects forced a door open and took the contents of the tip jar. The culprits were back the next night, cleaning out the tip jar again. Sometime on Monday night, a third attempt was made. The cash register was destroyed in an attempt to get it open, but it was empty. (AP)

“The fact of the matter is that they don’t like that her artistic expression happens to involve plumbing.”

— **TOM SPENCER**, ATTORNEY FOR TINA ASMUS OF LAKEMOOR, ILL. A JUDGE UPHELD A NUISANCE COMPLAINT ABOUT THE TOILETS USED AS PLANTERS IN HER FRONT YARD.

When Melons Go Bad: Drug Mule Edition



A donated cantaloupe that arrived at a prison in Wenatchee, Wash., on Monday was packed with tobacco and oxycodone pills. Jail Administrator Phil Stanley said the jail routinely uses surplus food from local grocery stores. In this case, a surveillance camera at the Plaza Super Jet showed two young women dropping off the melon. It was placed with surplus food that was picked up by jail staffers. Plaza Super Jet workers called and alerted the jail after they saw the video. (AP)

The Big Picture



A GIANT RAG DOLL clocking in at 59 feet tall went on display in Camaguey, Cuba, on Wednesday. The doll, named Eleanor, has a metal structure that's filled with various kinds of debris. Its creators hope to wrest the Guinness world record from Argentina's 43-foot-tall doll. (EXPRESS)

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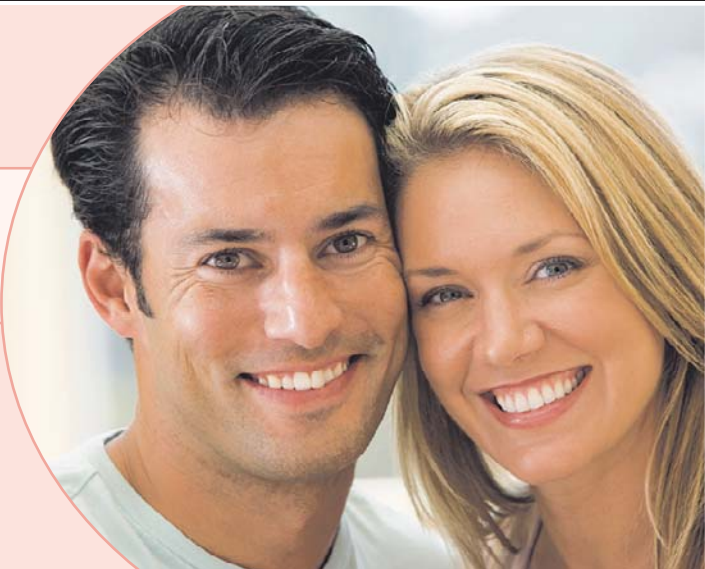
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U.S. Probes Brakes on Toyota Car

Washington

Toyota faced mounting pressure Thursday as the government opened a probe of brake problems with the Prius, a crown jewel of its lineup. The beleaguered automak-

80

The number of vehicle sales, in thousands, Toyota expects to lose in the U.S. due to fallout from recalls.

er said it was "too soon" to decide whether to add the hybrid to the millions of cars it has recalled. Some owners of the 2010 Prius have reported their brakes do not always engage immediately when they press the pedal, or that the brakes have an inconsistent feel. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it would assess the scope of the problem and the risk.

The investigation comes as safety questions surround Toyota, which has already issued broad recalls for millions of its best-selling vehicles because of gas pedals that can become stuck.

When asked whether Toyota would recall the 2010 Prius, spokesman Brian Lyons said: "It's too soon to call at this point." (AP)

Bleak Outlook Deflates Investors

Dow falls below 10K as bad news rolls in about jobs and debt

New York

Stocks buckled Thursday under the growing belief that the global economy is weaker than many investors expected and likely to stop companies from hiring. The Dow Jones industrials briefly traded below 10,000 for the first time in three months.

A flood of bad news, including rising debt levels in European nations and an unexpected jump in the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits, had investors pulling money out of assets like stocks and commodities that look increasingly risky.

Fears of more disappointing news Friday, when the government issues its January employment report, also contributed to the slide.

Demand for safer investments sent the dollar and Treasuries higher, and the euro falling. Major indexes skidded as much as 3.1 per-



George Moerler III works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday. Stocks plunged on fears the global economic recovery is losing steam.

cent to their lowest levels in three months. The Dow fell 268 points and briefly traded below 10,000 for the first time since Nov. 6. The

"The wall of cash that lifted [the stock market] last year is coming to an end."

— JON MERRIMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MERRIMAN CURHAN FORD, A FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Dow's 2.6 percent drop was its biggest in seven months.

Just 273 stocks rose on the New York Stock Exchange, while more than 2,800 fell.

The day's news reminded investors that the global economic recovery remains tenuous. It also raised questions about whether the market can resume its rebound from 12-year lows it hit last March.

"The market is becoming aware that the wall of cash that lifted it last year is coming to an end," said Jon Merriman, chief executive of Merriman Curhan Ford in San Francisco. TIM PARADIS (AP)



CONDIMENTS

The Heinz ketchup packet has been around for more than 40 years, and complaints about it for nearly as long: too messy, too small, too hard to open. Now H.J. Heinz Co. is unveiling the first major packaging change to the to-go condiment. The new design has a base that's more like a cup for dipping and also a tear-off end for squeezing, plus it holds three times as much ketchup. The new packet will roll out at fast-food restaurants in the fall. (AP)

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Nation

Brown Sworn in to Office

Newest Republican senator gives GOP a key filibuster vote

Washington

Republican Scott Brown took over the seat of the late Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy on Thursday, vowing to be an independent voice in a bitterly divided Senate.

"I can't promise I will be right in every vote I make. ... I will do the very best job I can," Brown said.

Brown was sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden at a Capitol Hill ceremony a week earlier than he originally planned, and just in time to plunge into a partisan fight over President Obama's choice of a union attorney for a top labor job.

Brown's arrival in the Senate ends the Democrats' supermajority and gives the GOP 41 votes it can use to block President Obama's agenda.

Depending on how Democrats set the Senate's calendar, Brown's first vote could be against the confirmation of Craig Becker, a



Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., became the 41st Republican in the Senate on Thursday.

lawyer for the Service Employees International Union, to a seat on the National Labor Relations Board, the federal panel that referees private-sector labor-management disputes.

Brown said he hasn't decided whether to support Becker.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee approved Becker's nomination on a party-line 13-10 vote Thursday, sending it to the full Senate.

Republicans have held up Becker's confirmation for months, saying they fear he might use the post to make labor laws more union-friendly.

Brown, 50, stunned the nation with his upset victory last month over favored Democrat Martha Coakley and put the 2010 midterm elections in play for a possible GOP takeover of Congress. Brown will fill the last two years of the late Kennedy's term. **ANDREW MIGA (AP)**

\$14.3T

The new cap on federal borrowing the House passed on Thursday. President Obama will sign the bill — which allows the government to go \$1.9 trillion deeper in the red — to avoid the first-ever U.S. debt default. (AP)

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In Brief



Campaign posters of Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko line a street in Kiev.

KIEV, UKRAINE

PM Threatens Massive Rally Ahead of Election

On the cusp of Sunday's decisive presidential vote, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, heroine of the massive popular protests that overturned rigged elections five years ago, threatened to mobilize supporters in the streets, accusing her rival of trying to steal the presidency. President Viktor Yushchenko signed a law Thursday that Tymoshenko alleged gives opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich an edge by tinkering with election oversight rules. (AP)

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Romania Approves Plan To Host Missile Shield

Romania's top defense body on Thursday approved a U.S. proposal to place anti-ballistic missile interceptors in the country as part of a revamped American missile shield, the president said. Romania will host "ground capabilities to intercept missiles" that will go into operation starting in 2015, President Traian Basescu said. (AP)

NEW DELHI

India Offers to Resume Dialogue With Pakistan

India offered Thursday to resume high-level peace talks with Pakistan, an overture that reflected a significant warming between the nuclear-armed countries one year after the deadly siege on Mumbai. Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the talks should resume from where they had been put on hold by India after the Mumbai attacks. (AP)

Ten Americans Charged in Haiti

Baptists accused of child kidnapping, criminal association

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Ten U.S. Baptist missionaries arrested trying to take 33 children out of Haiti after its devastating earthquake were charged Thursday with child kidnapping and criminal association, their lawyer said.

An investigating judge decided to charge the Americans, most members of an Idaho-based church group, because they lacked the required documents when they tried to cross into the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29 in a bus, said Edwin Coq, the group's Haitian lawyer.

The Baptists said they were rescuing abandoned children and orphans from a nation that UNICEF says had 380,000 before the catastrophic Jan. 12 quake. But it subsequently was determined that at least two-thirds of the children have parents who gave them away because they said the Americans promised the children a better life.

The U.S. citizens were whisked away from the closed court hearing back to the holding cells in Port-au-Prince, the capital, where they've been held since Saturday.



Mission leader Laura Silsby, left, and another member of her U.S. group leave the court in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Thursday.

Lawyer Blames Group Leader

The group's Haitian lawyer, Edwin Coq, surprised journalists in the courthouse parking lot by singling out mission leader Laura Silsby as having deceived her colleagues. "I'm going to do everything I can to get the nine [others] out," he said, though he added that he continued to represent Silsby, too. "They were naive," Coq said. "They had no idea what was going on [in Haiti], and they did not know that they needed official papers to cross the border. But Silsby did." Only minutes earlier, the Americans' Dominican lawyer, Jorge Puella, had said he expected at least nine of the 10 to be released Thursday. Silsby is also facing legal troubles back home in Idaho. She is being sued by a former employee for unpaid wages and by a law firm for unpaid fees, the Idaho Statesman reported. (AP/EXPRESS)

Their leader, Laura Silsby, waved and smiled faintly to reporters but declined to answer questions.

Coq said the case would be assigned a judge and a verdict could take three months. The magistrate, Mazard Fortil, left without making any statement.

The kidnapping charge carries a sentence of five to 15 years in prison. Criminal association is punishable by three to nine years.

FRANK BAJAK (AP)

McChrystal More Optimistic on Afghan War

Istanbul

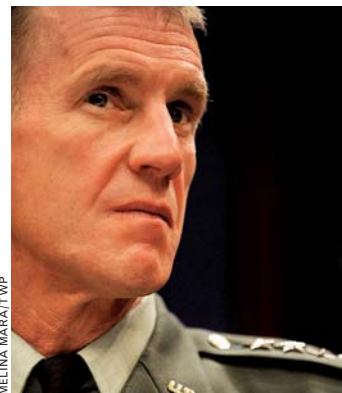
A top U.S. military commander offered a hint of optimism on the war in Afghanistan on Thursday by declaring, in contrast to other officials, that the security situation was no longer "deteriorating" but merely "serious."

Gen. Stanley McChrystal's assessment, a modest upgrade to the nine-year war, runs counter to that of officials in Afghanistan and other nations who say they worry the Taliban have expanded their

influence and that the situation has become explosive.

McChrystal says he agrees the Taliban have made strides in recent months and said he is "not prepared to say we've turned a corner." Even so, he said, the Afghan government and U.S. forces are making enough progress to leave him more optimistic about the war than he was last summer, when he declared it backsliding.

"I feel differently now," said McChrystal. "The situation is serious, but I think we have made sig-



Gen. Stanley McChrystal said Afghan security is "serious," not "deteriorating."

nificant progress in setting the conditions in 2009 ... and that we'll make real progress in 2010."

Even if slight, any improvement to the U.S.-led campaign in Afghanistan would bode well for President Obama, who has staked his presidency on defeating the Taliban. While anti-war Democrats say they are skeptical, Obama seems to have convinced many Democrats that more troops — 30,000 more are being deployed this year — are critical to ending the war.

ANNE FLAHERTY (AP)

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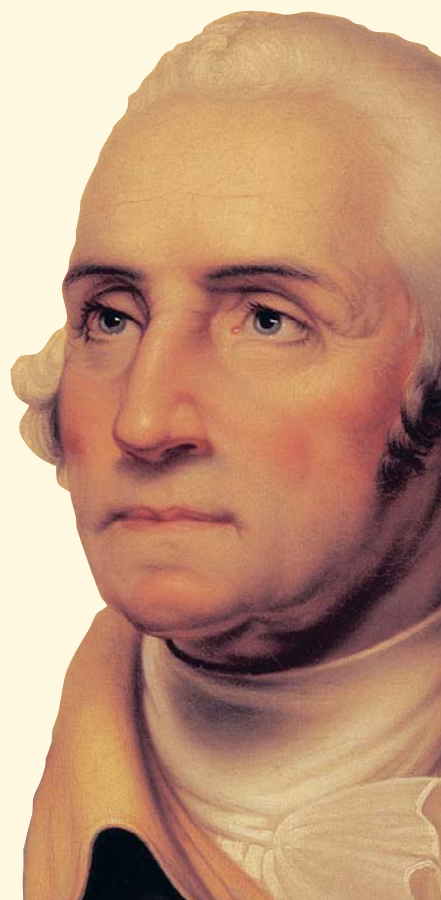
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World



GUILLERMO ARIAS/AP

Drug addicts attend a session at a rehabilitation center in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Mexican Cartels Take Over Clinics

Officials say gangs
turn recovering drug
addicts into hit men

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

Mexico's powerful cartels have taken to running drug rehabilitation centers, turning recovering addicts into hit men and smugglers and giving some an ultimatum: Work for us or we'll kill you.

Two of the country's six major drug cartels are known to have used treatment facilities to further their trade, top Mexican law enforcement officials told The Associated Press in exclusive interviews.

The phenomenon highlights the government's failure to address the social ills that have grown from Mexico's burgeoning drug trade, said Edgardo Buscaglia, a leading Mexican drug expert. While the government has gone after the cartels using the police and military, they have done little to regulate pri-

vate facilities that have proliferated as cocaine use doubled nationwide over the last six years.

In Ciudad Juarez, a city of 1.3 million with an estimated 100,000 addicts, many of the clinics are unlicensed and run out of dilap-

"The rehabilitation centers are an extension of the battlefield."

— **EDGARDO BUSCAGLIA**, A LEADING MEXICAN DRUG EXPERT, WHO ADDED, "THERE ARE NO REFUGES ANYMORE."

idated homes by former addicts — making them easy to infiltrate. Over the past year and a half, 41 people have been killed in mass shootings at rehab clinics in the city.

Victor Valencia, the former public safety secretary for Chihuahua state, blamed the attacks on the Sinaloa cartel, whose members, he said, checked themselves into the unlicensed clinics posing as patients. **JULIE WATSON (AP)**



INNOVATION

Soon Britons will be able to get smashed at

the pub while their pint glasses won't. The shatter-proof pint glass was unveiled by the government on Thursday. Officials hope the new design will save the country billions in health care costs. There are about 87,000 alcohol-related glass attacks each year, said Home Secretary Alan Johnson. (AP)

It's On With the Snow

Amid forecasts of a major storm, the region surrenders to another whiteout

Washington

Crowds started gathering at 6 a.m. Thursday at the Safeway in the Belle View Shopping Plaza in Fairfax County — well before the first snowflakes were predicted to fall — hoping to stock up not only for the coming snowstorm, but for their Super Bowl parties on Sunday.

By midday, managers were handing out chocolate-chip cookies to harried shoppers throughout the store, the Duraflame logs and ice melt pellets were running low, the bananas were wiped out, and the lines of full to bursting shopping carts at all nine check-out counters were backed up all the way into the aisles.

"It's getting crazy," said Michael Roark of Cabin John as he slammed shut the trunk of his four-wheel-drive Chevy Suburban packed with more than \$300 in groceries.

As a big storm that promised to find a place in the record books bore down, the region surrendered to what seemed inevitable, preparing to shut down virtually everything that didn't need to be open until after it all blew over.

Snow is expected to pelt the region with the ferocity of a summer thunderstorm on Friday, accumulating at a rate of 3 inches an hour during the worst of it, and piling more than 2 feet deep before it's over. If the forecast holds true, the snow will fall well into Saturday, leaving Sunday for the big dig-



Area supermarkets were mobbed Thursday as Washingtonians rushed to beat a storm that could leave up to 2 feet of snow.

A Costly Snow Fight

IN MARYLAND

\$36M

The amount that the state has already spent on snow removal, despite its \$26 million budget for this year. The average annual cost of snow removal in Maryland has been just short of \$45 million.

IN VIRGINIA

\$36M

The amount that the Virginia Department of Transportation has spent to plow streets in Northern Virginia. The beleaguered agency allocated \$27.6 million to the snow effort after suffering through major layoffs.

IN D.C.

\$4M

The amount that the District government spent on December's major snowfall alone. Given that the cost of this weekend's storm could rival that of the first storm, the city is very likely to go over its \$6.2 million budget.

out and the Super Bowl.

Highway crews rolled out for their third all-hands deployment of the winter season, pre-treating roads and positioning plows and salt trucks, fully aware that nothing in their arsenal can keep pace with the expected precipitation.

The region's biggest employer — the federal government — said workers could take unscheduled leave, and held open the possibility that all federal offices would close early on Friday. Most local govern-

Schools Out

All of the snow has been great for students but bad for educators.

- ▶ Fairfax County schools will already be in session on President's Day to make up one of the four days already lost, and if they lose more time, school officials will eliminate a day off in April and then extend the school year in June.
- ▶ Montgomery County, which has used all four of its snow days, will extend the school year if any more days are needed.
- ▶ Prince George's County has one day left, after which officials would extend the school year.
- ▶ D.C. schools haven't used any snow days thus far because the December storm came when they were on break. They have two snow days built into the calendar.

ments followed suit. The World Bank declared Friday a snow holiday.

Winter-weary and weather-wise after an abundance of snow this season, the citizenry trudged through the routine of stockpiling groceries, lining up at the gas pump and, facing the prospect of being home alone for the Super Bowl, many dropped by the liquor store.

Back at the Belle View Safeway, Carol Hurckes heaved a heavy box of Duraflame logs onto the counter. She had first sought to do her grocery shopping at the commissary at nearby Fort Belvoir but couldn't even find a spot in the parking lot. "It was unbelievable. So packed," she said. Instead, she filled her pickup truck with gas and headed to Safeway.

As her groceries were packed, she paused. "The only thing I forgot is candles," she mused. "We always lose electricity in these storms." She figured she'd head to Whole Foods next. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Metro Plans Limited Service

If forecasts are even close to accurate — some are calling for more than 2 feet of snow — Metro riders should be prepared to be patient this weekend. Metro announced Thursday that it will close all aboveground sections of the Metrorail system once snow accumulation hits 8 inches. At that point, trains will run every 30 minutes on underground sections of the track only. Metro has also said it's likely to stop all bus service at some point this weekend, and it will not resume service until roads are considered safe. (EXPRESS)



If Metro goes underground-only, here's where service will be available:

- **Yellow line:** Pentagon to Crystal City
- **Red Line:** Medical Center to Union Station
- **Orange line:** Ballston to Stadium-Armory
- **Green Line:** Fort Totten to Congress Heights
- **Blue Line:** Ballston (extended Blue Line) to Stadium-Armory

The Love Affair Comes to an End

Giant panda departs for China after years of adoration in D.C.

Washington

Tai Shan, the adolescent giant panda who has been a beloved symbol of Washington for the past four years, left town Thursday morning for China after a week of farewells and tearful goodbyes.

The black-and-white bear who was born at the National Zoo at 3:41 a.m. on a Saturday morning in July 2005, departed the zoo just after 9 a.m. in a special crate, aboard a special truck via an undisclosed route for a special flight to the Orient out of Dulles International Airport. Shortly after noon,



Tai Shan is loaded aboard a FedEx 777 at Dulles International Airport Thursday.

a plane took off from Dulles with Tai Shan ensconced aboard, ending an unlikely 4 1/2 -year love fest between the hard-boiled nation's

capital and an oddball bear with black ears, a mesmerizing gaze and an appetite for pears.

Born so small and so nearly

hairless he was nicknamed "Butterstick," Tai Shan came to fascinate millions of people who saw him in person or via the zoo's pandacams. He spawned a fan club, panda merchandise, bumper stickers, postage stamps, videos, documentaries and license plates.

But as the cub grew older and more mature, his days here grew numbered. Although he was born at the National Zoo, he remained the property of China by the terms of the agreement that brought his parents, Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, here 10 years ago.

Giant pandas are native to China and are endangered. Tai Shan is being sent to join a breeding program there to help increase the giant panda population. **MICHAEL E. RUANE (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

Metro Has Candidate List for GM

Washington

Metro board Chairman Peter Benjamin said board members are reviewing a long list of candidates to identify an interim leader for the transit agency who can step in when General Manager John B. Catoe Jr. departs April 2.

The candidates include everyone in Metro's current top level of management, including Catoe's deputies, and people from outside Metro, Benjamin said.

"There are many people who have shown up on this list from all the different sources," Benjamin said. "The board as a group is working on what criteria do we apply to the type of person we want, noting that this is for an interim period" and may be "different from what you want long term," he said.

The next step is for the board to agree on the criteria and shorten the list before interviews with the candidates, Benjamin said. **ANN SCOTT TYSON (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

The Lotteries

Thursday, Feb. 4

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	6-4-0
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	7-3-8
Mid-day Pick 4	0-4-3-9
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-2-8-9
Match 5 (Wed.)	10-13-17-27-37 (33)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	1-2-3-17-26-34

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	8-8-7
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	8-9-9
Mid-day DC 4	0-6-5-2
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	5-5-5-7
Mid-day D.C. Five	9-6-1-7-8
Evening D.C. Five (Wed.)	8-7-5-6-3
Daily 6 (Wed.)	6-12-14-16-20-36 (11)
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	2-17-18-30-36 (15)

Virginia


Mid-day Pick 3	0-4-2
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-6-0
Mid-day Pick 4	6-2-0-2
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	2-4-4-2
Mid-day Cash 5	5-6-11-26-28
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	5-6-9-24-31
Win For Life (Wed.)	3-21-32-33-34-42 (17)


Multi-State Games

Powerball	17-22-36-37-52 (24)
Power Play	2X

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Rawlings-Blake Sworn in as Baltimore Mayor

Dixon on probation under plea deal that required resignation

Baltimore, Md.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was sworn in Thursday as the 49th mayor of Baltimore, replacing Sheila Dixon, who resigned amid a scandal that a judge said stamped her with "a badge of dishonor."

Rawlings-Blake, 39, took the oath of office shortly before 12:15 p.m., with her mother, husband and daughter, 6, by her side.

"Today marks the beginning of a new day in city government," said Rawlings-Blake, a Democrat.



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, center, was sworn in as Baltimore's mayor on Thursday.

"None of us asked for this, but all of us must accept the challenges and hard work that come with it."

The ceremony was delayed a few minutes because an aunt of Rawlings-Blake's fell ill. Nonetheless,

the mood at City Hall was jubilant — a stark contrast to the proceedings less than three hours earlier in a courthouse a block away, where Dixon received probation before judgment under a plea deal that required her to step down.

The sentence means Dixon will not have a conviction on her record if she meets all the requirements of her probation.

A jury convicted Dixon in December of embezzling about \$500 worth of gift cards donated to the city for needy families.

Dixon then pleaded guilty last month to lying about thousands of dollars in gifts from her former boyfriend, a prominent developer. (AP)

Bethesda Man Gets Warning For Sex Parties

Bethesda, Md.

Zoning officials in Bethesda, Md., have issued a warning over one resident's monthly sex parties.

Paul Pickthorne rents a home and says he is a practitioner of "BDSM," short for "bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism."

Montgomery County zoning inspector Frank De Lange issued Pickthorne a warning last week. He says that because he accepted money from attendees to help cover costs, the parties constitute a commercial enterprise. (AP)

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- * select units

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- *Walk to Metro

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food fun and a sweetheart of a deal

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Fabulous February Special

- * Newly Renovated Apartment Homes
- * Large floorplans
- * Spacious closets
- * Choice of Wall to wall carpet or Hardwood Floors
- * Laundry on-site
- * Off-street parking
- * Free Shuttle Bus to Metro
- * Convenient to shops at Park Village & Brand New Library
- * THEARC Just Blocks Away

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SE
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- *Balconies & Patios
- *Controlled Access
- *Sparkling Swimming Pool
- * Fabulous Views of the City

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- Beautifully landscaped community
- Convenient to shopping
- Free Metro shuttle
- On-site laundry facilities

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Washington, DC 20020
1-888-286-7195

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No Application Fee
10:00am-8:00pm

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\$350 off first month's rent
if moved in by February 15th

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Bring Your \$100 Holding Fee to Reserve Your
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- Designer Kitchens
- Ask About Free Rent

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Silver Spring EHO

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mi, Navigation, Black int, Gray ext, 4 dr, Htd Seats,
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sports

The Super Bowl may be in Miami, but the party is in New Orleans | 22



TV Lineup

Friday

7 P.M. The red-hot Capitals host the Atlanta Thrashers. CSN+

7 P.M. The Wizards look to end yet another losing skid against the Orlando Magic. CSN

8:30 P.M. The Maryland women's basketball team hosts Georgia Tech. My20



Greg Monroe looks to lead the Hoyas to an upset of No. 2 Villanova on Saturday.

Saturday

NOON No. 7 Georgetown tries to rebound from Wednesday's loss and be the first Big East team to beat No. 2 Villanova. ESPN

NOON Virginia battles Wake Forest in an ACC men's basketball game. My20

4 P.M. Virginia Tech's men's basketball team sure could use a win over Clemson. My20

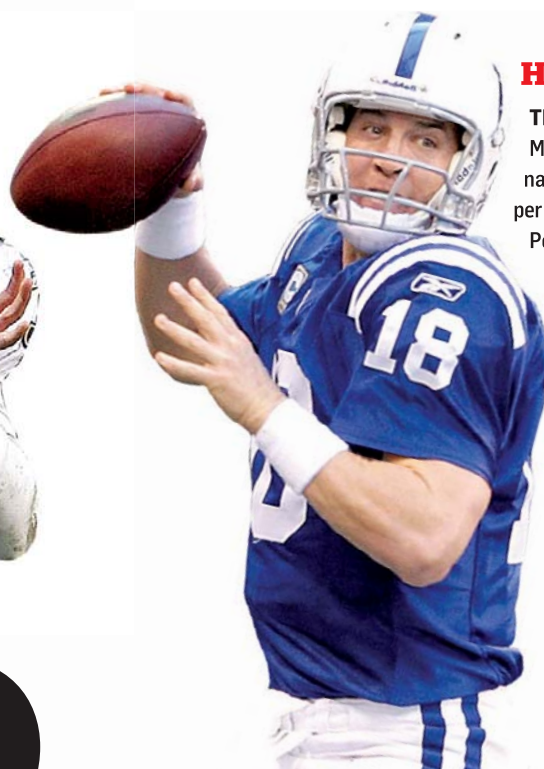
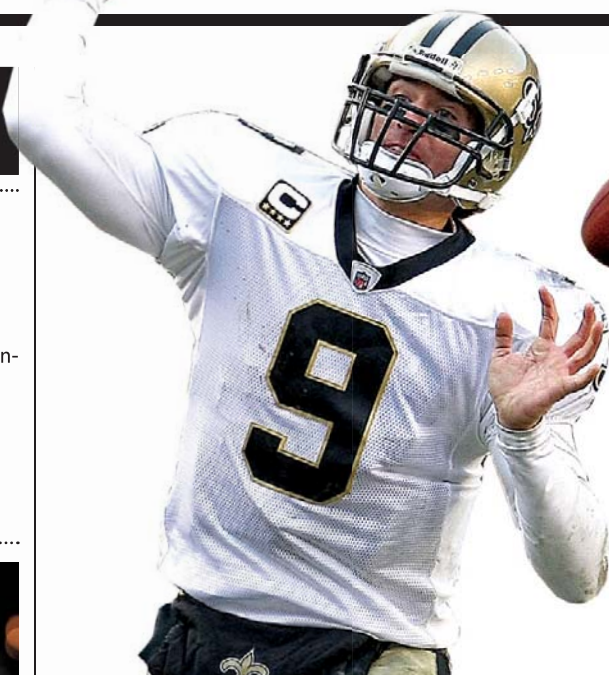
7 P.M. It's another chance for Wizards fans to watch an awful game when the Atlanta Hawks come to Verizon Center. CSN

Sunday

NOON Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby duel in a pre-Super Bowl showdown. NBC

2 P.M. Maryland's men's basketball team can add to North Carolina's woes. CSN

6 P.M. There's some football game between the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints. CBS



UP IN THE AIR

Colts, Saints throw out the old winning formula



Pro Football

In the 1973 Super Bowl, Bob Griese threw a grand total of 11 passes to help the Miami Dolphins complete the NFL's only perfect season.

The sport was more wide open a generation later, when winning quarterback Troy Aikman tossed 23 passes in the 1996 championship game for the Dallas Cowboys. The Baltimore Ravens allowed

Trent Dilfer to throw a whopping 25 times when they won the league title in 2001.

Peyton Manning and Drew Brees may surpass those numbers before halftime in Sunday's Super Bowl between the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints, because passing wins like never before.

Every 12-year-old fan can recite the NFL's common coaching mantra: Run the ball, control the clock, and play good defense. But that longtime model for winning championships may be headed the way of leather helmets.

"The game has changed," for-

mer Steelers coach Bill Cowher says. "It's catered to throwing."

Manning and Brees do it better than anyone else, which is a big reason their teams are in the title game. Brees set an NFL record with his completion percentage of 70.6, and Manning ranked second at 68.8. Brees led the league with 34 touchdown passes, and Manning tied Brett Favre for second at 33. Brees ranked first in passing efficiency, and Manning was on pace for an NFL-high 4,800 yards before resting for the playoffs late in the regular season.

Gaudy passing statistics haven't

How Manning Works

The Colts work without a huddle, and Peyton Manning calls his own plays. Offensive coordinator Tom Moore usually tells him three plays per snap — two runs, one pass. Then begins the Peyton Shuffle. Shouting. Stomping. Waving his arms like a marionette gone mad. Choreographed chaos, really. Is he calling an audible, or is the whole thing just an act? Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis has seen this plenty: "You've got to figure out what's real and what's not. That's the main thing," Lewis said. (AP)

historically translated into winning. Instead, 300-yard games were for losers. But this year, eight of the league's top 10 teams in passing yardage made the playoffs.

The Colts will play for the title despite ranking a distant 32nd and last in rushing. The Arizona Cardinals ranked last a year ago when they reached the Super Bowl.

Former Giants quarterback and current CBS announcer Phil Simms finds the numbers misleading and the trend exaggerated. He says short, safe throws pad passing stats, and teams use such plays to control the ball.

"It's really just another way of running the ball, instead of dropping back and throwing it like we did in the old days," says Simms, the 1987 Super Bowl MVP. "I could go out there now and throw left-handed and hit 50 percent, because there are so many easy throws."

Others argue this is an era of uncommon talent at quarterback. Saints coach Sean Payton says passing wins today because of those doing the throwing.

"You're seeing quarterback play that's probably as good as this league has ever had," Payton says. "There are a dozen teams that are getting outstanding play at quarterback, and you would go back a long time before you could say that." STEVEN WINE (AP)

CLINTON
YATES
EXPRESS
SPORTS
EDITORSUPER BOWL
PICKS

Winner:

Saints, 37-30

Will they repeat?

No

MVP:

Reggie Bush

Over/under 56.5?

Over

Coin toss result:

Heads

1st player

to score:

Austin Collie

Last player

to score:

Robert Meachem

Top defender:

Darren Sharper

Number of Pey-

ton Manning TDs:

3

Sacks allowed by

Indianapolis:

2

Yards passing

combined:

847

Longest run of

the game:

55 yards by Bush

Number of

penalties:

10

Unlikely hero:

Garrett Hartley

Unsung hero:

Peter Carmichael

THE SAINTS WILL WIN IF ...

1 Reggie Bush
returns a punt
for a touchdown.

Desmond Howard was a former Heisman Trophy winner who snagged the Super Bowl's MVP award in 1997 with his stellar work on Green Bay's special teams, including a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. Bush's return ability makes him a legitimate threat to be the fifth Heisman winner to become a Super Bowl MVP.

2

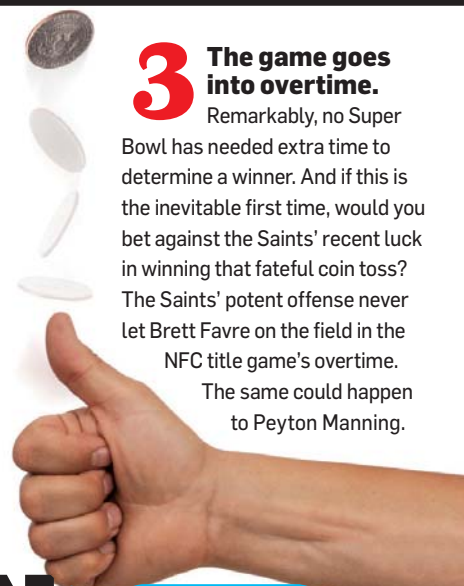
Jonathan Vilma has a
homecoming to remember.

The middle linebacker was a high school star at Coral Gables High School before dominating at the University of Miami. In his second year with the Saints, Vilma made the Pro Bowl ahead of the Redskins' London Fletcher but gladly bowed out to prepare for the NFL title game. The Colts had best be wary of Vilma.

3 The game goes
into overtime.

Remarkably, no Super Bowl has needed extra time to determine a winner. And if this is the inevitable first time, would you bet against the Saints' recent luck in winning that fateful coin toss? The Saints' potent offense never let Brett Favre on the field in the NFC title game's overtime.

The same could happen to Peyton Manning.



3UP, 3DOWN

HOW THE COLTS OR SAINTS COULD WIN THE SUPER BOWL

THE COLTS WILL WIN IF ...



1

The Saints forget about Dallas
Clark in their mad dash to sack
Peyton Manning.

This past year, Manning found the NFL's highest-paid tight end for 100 receptions, earning Clark a Pro Bowl spot. Clark has caught 41 touchdowns from Manning since entering the league in 2003, and don't think the two aren't looking to add to that total Sunday.

2

Dwight Freeney gets a sack on the Saints'
first possession.

Imagine the emotional lift that would be to Indy if its defensive end overcame his ankle injury to make a key play early in the game. That would surely carry over to the offense. Even if he didn't play another down, Freeney would go down in Super Bowl lore for such big-game heroics.

3 The game comes
down to kicking.

Sure, the Saints are in the Super Bowl because of Garrett Hartley's 40-yard field goal in the NFC championship, but he's generally spotty. Meanwhile, the Colts will be without ex-Super Bowl hero Adam Vinatieri, but they have Matt Stover, who's one of the NFL's best kickers over the years.

MATT
SWENSON
EXPRESS
SPORTS
EDITORSUPER BOWL
PICKS

Winner:

Colts, 30-13

Will they repeat?

No

MVP:

Peyton Manning

Over/under 56.5?

Under

Coin toss result:

Tails

1st player

to score:

Joseph Addai

Last player

to score:

Matt Stover

Top defender:

Antoine Bethea

Number of Pey-

ton Manning TDs:

3

Sacks allowed by

Indianapolis:

1

Yards passing

combined:

670

Longest run:

20 yards by Pierre

Thomas

Number of

penalties:

12

Unlikely hero:

Dwight Freeney

Unsung hero:

Coach Jim Caldwell

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Swengali**A Perfect Problem For Colts' Manning**

Perfect Peyton Manning's life is, well, just about perfect.

He's the heavy favorite to win his second Super Bowl this Sunday, a perfect way to end a season in which he won his fourth NFL MVP.

A new contract making him the league's highest-paid player has already been promised by Colts owner Jim Irsay. He'll surely be showcasing his winning personality in a commercial or two on Sunday. And a win over the Saints would surely lead many to declare that No. 18 is No. 1 on the all-time quarterbacks list.

So, what's wrong with this picture? Nothing. Manning has it all. But if Michael Phelps and Tiger

The burden of the golden-boy image is that even a minor misstep can create a major flap.

Woods have taught us anything, it's that this is precisely the moment when the bottom could fall out for Indianapolis' star quarterback.

By creating this image of "Perfect Peyton," Manning has become a franchise unto himself.

From afar, he appears to be the model to which all athletes should aspire. (Cal Ripken is the closest comparison.)

But the burden of the golden-boy image is that even a minor misstep can create a major flap.

Manning is held to a higher standard. If he lives up to it, he'll be the exception to the rule.

Maybe Manning thrives on such high-stakes scrutiny of how he lives. I know that I, for one, would consider this anything but perfect.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Big Easy Awash in Saints Fever

One of the world's best party towns is set for the big game

Pro Football

Mardi Gras falls on a Sunday this year.

The city of the Saints is filling up with ex-New Orleanians and others ahead of the Super Bowl, many looking to cast off a legacy of football futility and natural disaster — others just looking to party down in one of the world's greatest party towns.

"We're gearing up for Sunday just like Mardi Gras day," said Earl Bernhardt, a bar owner in the French Quarter. "We're staffing just like we do for Mardi Gras, and if the Saints win, we won't close at all. We'll stay open as long as people are standing."

After 43 years in existence, the Saints will make their Super Bowl debut in Miami on Sunday, facing the favored Indianapolis Colts.

Fans from most cities would be headed to South Florida about now. But for expat New Orleanians, the game is triggering a pilgrimage home. And for everybody back in town, the party's already started.

A few are taking the week off in



This was the scene at the French Quarter after the NFC title game; imagine the celebration if the Saints win the Super Bowl.

"I pity anybody who needs something done in New Orleans these days. We can't concentrate on anything but the game."

— **STEVE SABRIER**, AN OIL-FIELD WORKER WHO MARCHED FROM THE SUPER DOME TO THE FRENCH QUARTER AFTER THE SAINTS WON THE NFC CHAMPIONSHIP TWO WEEKS AGO.

the countdown to game day. Others are punching the clock but not getting much done. Saints jerseys, "Who Dat?" T-shirts, and black and gold beads are the uniform everywhere you go.

The French Quarter's narrow streets also are awash in the team colors. As revelers cruise down its streets, strangers give each

other high fives

Sister Mary Rose, a Dominican nun who attends every Saints game and teaches at a Catholic school in the Quarter, said the feeling of sheer excitement in the city is almost tangible. "I think 'exuberant joy' is the word," the nun said. "And it has brought such a unity to us, such a bond between all the

people here it's just amazing."

Rick Watson, and his wife, Katherine, are among the natives coming back.

Now residents of North Carolina, 35-year-old Watson said it took them a long time to believe the Saints had really made the big game, but not much time to decide where to watch it.

"When something big happens, you go home, and this is big," Watson said. "Besides, where would you rather be if the Saints win: the French Quarter or Miami? Even if they lose, you want to be in New Orleans." **MARY FOSTER (AP)**

'Castaways' to Play Big Roles in Super Bowl

Pro Football

The overlooked, the underrated and the outright rejected have somehow landed in this Super Bowl — some with starring roles, too.

The New Orleans Saints wouldn't be competitive, let alone NFC champions and in their first Super Bowl, without a number of players who fit those categories. The list starts with quarterback Drew Brees and includes Darren Sharper, Jonathan Vilma, Jeremy Shockey, Pierre Thomas and

Marques Colston.

Same for the Colts. Indianapolis defensive starters Gary Brackett and Melvin Bullitt weren't drafted. Neither was Jeff Saturday, the three-time All-Pro who snaps the ball to Peyton Manning. Two other starters, guard Ryan Lilja and defensive tackle Dan Muir, were picked up on waivers.

"You've got to take advantage of your opportunities. Nothing's given to you," said Colts safety Antoine Bethea, a sixth-round pick.

Brees was all but dumped by



Jeremy Shockey was dumped by the Giants and landed with the Saints.

San Diego, then shunned by the Dolphins in 2006. Sharper, set adrift by Minnesota last year, signed a one-year deal at the veteran's minimum with New Orleans. Vilma and Shockey were unwanted in New York despite some Pro Bowl seasons. Thomas wasn't drafted at all, while Colston was — 252nd overall in 2006.

"In a way, all of us were castaways, guys who were obviously free agents because there were plenty of teams out there that didn't want us," Brees said. **(AP)**

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Messy Affair
'Dear John' drips with Sparks' sap and ends on an unsavory note | **28**

Sleep Impact

Tuck into a sleeker, cozier bed with contemporary linens and hip headboards — plus, tips on how to make any mattress more comfortable **26**





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Taylor Hicks

SINGER, ACTOR, RHINESTONE ENTHUSIAST

Silver-maned singer Taylor Hicks made his name by winning the fifth season of “American Idol” in 2006, fueled by the support of his fans, dubbed the Soul Patrol. Since then, the 33-year-old has released two albums and parlayed his “Idol” success into a stint on stages across the country as the Teen Angel in the national tour of “Grease.” Hicks and company land at the National Theatre Feb. 9-21.

Had you thought of doing professional musical theater before “Idol”?

Never in a million years would I dream that I would actually grace a Broadway stage in New York City. That’s what “Idol” allows — the platform to be an entertainer and to experience all facets of the business.

What was it about “Grease” that lured you to sign on?

You always want to start small and get bigger, and from just a learning perspective — not having ever had any acting training — I think taking a small role like Teen Angel was the best move for me because it allowed me to get my feet wet.

Has the Soul Patrol made itself heard during the show?

Oh, yes. There’s kind of a Grateful Dead-meets-Parrot Head contingent in some of the Broadway theaters across the country, which has been great.

How do you keep up that kind of fan base?

You have to tour all the time. I’ve been on the road now for four years

straight. It’s quite extensive, but I don’t know any other way, because I’ve studied so many legendary musicians, and that’s the reason why they are legendary, because they do tour extensively.

The Teen Angel’s style is a little flashier than yours, isn’t it?

I designed my Teen Angel cos-

“My Teen Angel jacket ... might give 50 Cent a run for his money as far as bling is concerned.”

tume. It’s a midnight blue, rhinestone-studded suit — it’s got kind of an Elvis-meets-Gram Parsons-meets-Liberace kind of feel.

Has wearing that so often changed your fashion choices?

I’ve not gone to dinner with my Teen Angel jacket [shown] yet, but before I leave this Broadway tour, I will go clubbing in it. I might give 50 Cent a run for his money as far as bling is concerned.

Favorite angel: Clarence from “It’s a Wonderful Life” or Charlie’s Angels?

I’d have to go with Charlie’s Angels. Cheryl Ladd for \$200, Alex.

You’re from Alabama. Do you like your barbecue with or without white sauce?

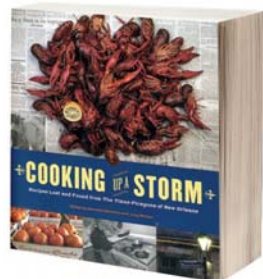
I’ll take barbecue with white sauce once every seven-and-a-half months. Usually, it’s more just good, old-fashioned red sauce.

Any favorite spots in D.C.?

I love Georgetown. Being in a city like D.C. is a blessing, and I’m going to comb through it as much as I can. **GREG BARBER (EXPRESS)**

Event Horizon | The Language of Love

Get in the Valentine’s Day spirit at the Library of Congress, which hosts its annual “Love Poems” reading Tuesday at noon (free, Whittall Pavilion, Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. SE; 202-707-5000). It’s followed by a screening of the critically acclaimed film “Bright Star,” about the romance between John Keats and Fanny Brawn.



Gumbo Jumbo

IN SUPER BOWLS past, we've picked our teams based on the cuteness of the uniforms (or, um, the quarter-

1 back). This year, we're voting with our stomachs. Sorry, Indy: New Orleans' tasty home-grown dishes top our list, the best of which are compiled in "Cooking Up a Storm" (\$25, Chronicle). Recipes come from local chefs, residents and the city's paper, the Times-Picayune, which started republishing reader favorites after Hurricane Katrina. Shrimp and grits? Sounds like a winner.

C, the Difference **3**

WE KEEP A STASH of vitamin C caplets in our desk drawer for days when we're feeling under the weather. (An old wives' tale? Maybe, but our sniffles have been minimal this season.) Now, our lackluster dermis can also benefit from a mega dose of nutrients with Bliss' new Triple Oxygen + C Energizing Cream (\$54, Bliss Spa, 515 15th St. NW; 877-862-5477). The combo of vitamins and oxygen reportedly perks up tired skin and promotes faster rejuvenation.



Delicious Duplicity

NO MATTER what Nickelodeon showed us, there's no such thing as a CatDog. The same goes for non-alcoholic "wine" and low-fat "sour cream." Luckily, Sweet Mustard Ketchup (\$11, Dean and DeLuca, 3276 M St. NW; 202-342-2500) does, indeed, exist, and its tangy-meets-sweet goodness would rock big-game bratwursts or nicely baste a chicken. Still, the pourable potion doesn't contain any tomatoes, so it's technically misnamed, though tasty.

4



Dear Manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

My spring formal is approaching, and I'm having the worst time trying to find shoes for my wide feet. Help! — CHRISTINA

Manolo says, ayyyy! How well the Manolo remembers his own formals, the events which in hindsight should best be forgotten. Sadly, the memory of the Manolo standing alone outside the gymnasium, dressed in his Edwardian finery, glumly making the sarcastic comments about the other students to no one in particular, is forever etched in his brain.



However, just because the Manolo suffered the dance-based psychic disaster does not mean that others should not have the bestest time ever, with their fancy gowns, rented electric blue tuxedos and stretch Hummer limousines, which will ferry them from the Olive Garden to the gym. There, they will shake their groove thang to the latest dance craze, be it the Soldier Boy, the Hustle, the Watusi or the Charleston.

Here is the Elegant from Annie (\$45, Zappos.com), the very reasonably priced, moderately hot satin dress sandal that goes up to the WW width.



Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

About the Cover

Add heat to a snooze spot with Blissliving Home's new Miami Bungalow bedding (duvet set \$225-\$295; pillows \$65-\$75), available beginning Feb. 15 at Blisslivinghome.com. Other bedding from the company includes floral pillows and silk quilts.

This Olé Thing?

FLAMENCO DANCERS always look sexier than other steppers. (Maybe it's the castanets?) See their drop-dead dresses and other costumes — a paprika-red gown, shown; a lightning bolt-emblazoned matador suit — as they sashay into the Corcoran Gallery of Art's Dressed to Dance (\$35, Feb. 8, 7 p.m., 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700). Equal parts runway show and dance showcase, the evening highlights creations by Spanish designers and artists such as Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso.

Join the Cubbies

DEAR PILES OF CRAP: Though we keep trying to throw you out, we just can't quit our circa-2001 Real Simple magazines or Matterhorn of sports socks. Thank the gods of design for the new Way Basics' cubes (\$20 each, 2modern.com), easy-to-assemble, bright storage blocks made of recycled paper. The company also sells similar rectangular models. Erecting a skyscraper of the geometric things to stash stuff is possible, though going more than four cubes high might merit a reality-TV intervention.





John Robshaw's bedding, sold locally at Valerianne and Timothy Paul Bedding + Home, draws on his treks to India.

REMAKE YOUR BED

Wake up a snoozy sleep spot with hipster linens and upholstered headboards — plus tips on how to get a luxe, personalized look without draining your bank account

Unless you're dating George Clooney or Megan Fox, your bed may be the last good-looking thing you see before you hit the sack and the first one you see when the morning alarm sounds.

Yet many people devote less effort to dressing up their sleeping space than they do to reordering their Netflix queue. "Your bedroom is your sanctuary, and the bed is the biggest thing in it," says Aimee Wedlake, owner of Vienna, Va., luxury linen boutique Valerianne (111 Church St. NW, second floor; 703-242-1790). "If you make it special, then it'll both look great and be a nice place to crawl into at the end of the day."

A glance around Wedlake's calm, cement-floored store reveals boudoir combos that'd make the picky heroine of "The Princess and the Pea" nod off: a headboard upholstered in sueded beige fabric paired with a Bollywoodish mustard print duvet, a sleigh bed decked in a paisley comforter and a pillow festooned with feather fringe.

This creative mixing and matching, fueled in part by younger, hipper textile designers, may finally kill off the bed-in-a-bag concept and its staid, overly coordinated looks. Fresh brands — such as stripe- and botanical-mad DwellStudio (which sells its higher-end line at Dwellstudio.com and a punchy, less-expensive one at Target) and locally based, Asian-meets-mod Bliss Living Home (Blisslivinghome.com) — give nesters simpler patterned styles and more decor leeway when it comes to putting together ensembles for their beds. "Start with a set of sheets or matching shams and a duvet, and then expand and get creative," says D.C. interior designer Katie Leavy of Capital Design (Capitaldesign.com).

"It's interesting to pair more luxurious bedding with simpler things, like doing a Gap T-shirt with designer jeans," says Mia Worrell, co-owner of Timothy Paul Bedding + Home (1529A 14th St. NW; 202-234.2020), which hawks a combo of modern brands (Indian-print heavy John Robshaw; monochromatic, luxe Matteo; updated preppy LuLu DK Matouk), and pillows and quilts whipped up from antique Asian textiles. The resulting looks — a neutral-colored quilt jazzed up by a bolster made of cranberry-hued, zig-zaggy Indonesian ikat, a bed swaddled in different textures of all white — tend to be serene but stylish.

Such spa-like cool illustrates another way to get an uptown turndown: Like an outfit you'd put together to wear, the getup on your bed should

COMFORT ZONE

It's fine to have a fine-looking bed but better to have one that's plush and restful. Here are tips from the pros on how to upgrade your turndown.



"Putting a feather-top mattress or feather-bed mattress pad on the bed is a sure way to not want to leave your bed in the morning."

AMBER KLEINER, DESIGN MANAGER, BLISSLIVINGHOME.COM



"Don't put so many throw pillows on your bed that you can't figure out how to get in it."

KATIE LEAVY, CAPITAL DESIGN



"Don't go for the heaviest down comforter you can find — sometimes a lighter one plus a blanket is better in a temperate climate like D.C."

MIA WORRELL, TIMOTHY PAUL BEDDING + HOME



STICK ON

An easy, breezy way to get a headboard on the cheap: Blik's decal headboards (\$40-\$55, Whatisblik.com), stick-on pieces that re-create brass beds and other old-school styles in hues like pink and kiwi.

MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS



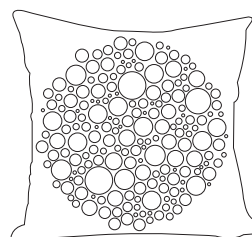
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams' new bedding line comes in stripes and solids meant to appeal to both sexes.

Personal Rest

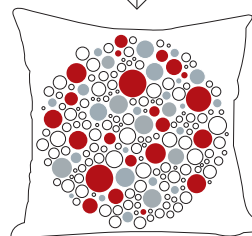
An upholstered headboard brings lots of style without the high price of a new bed. DIYers whip them up by staplegunning fabric to plywood (for a video of an easy-yet-impressive project, see Designspongeonline.com/2009/09/diy-video-graces-upholstered-otomi-headboard.html). Ballard Designs (Ballarddesigns.com) sells studded, plain and tufted ones (shown) in dozens of fabrics (from apple-green velvet to zebra print) beginning at \$249.



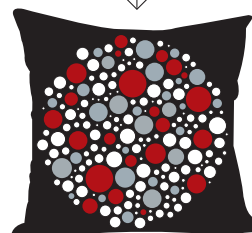
Ballard Designs' Camden headboard, left, can be covered in many fabrics.



At Inmod.com, use a mouse to choose from among dozens of patterns for duvets and pillows.



Then, choose from dozens of colors to embroider onto your chosen project.



Finally, decide whether you'd like your item in linen, silk or cotton; save; pay; and tuck in.

CUSTOM COOL

It's one thing to find a comforter you heart at Pottery Barn and quite another to dream up truly custom bedding using Inmod.com. The contempo furnishings site boasts a design-your-own-linens service that lets you choose from dozens of patterns (mid-century amoebas, hipster flowers, zooming airplanes) and colors — all of which you see in place before you buy via a cool Web tool — that can be embroidered onto silk, cotton or linen pillows and duvets (pillows, \$40-\$80 each; duvets \$125-\$870).

“It’s interesting to pair more luxurious bedding with simpler things, like doing a Gap T-shirt with designer jeans.”

Mia Worrell, Timothy Paul Bedding + Home

marry a variety of elements: solids and prints, sleek pieces and fuzziness, or sparkle. (For the latter, try a furry green throw (\$50, Crateandbarrel.com) or a sequined pillow (Blissliving-home.com, \$65).

“There’s a move toward white or neutral bedding spiced up with colorful throws or maybe shams, kind of like having a solid sofa that you dress up or down,” Leavy says. Furniture giant Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams recently added one of these less-is-more bedding lines, Modern Linens. Heavy-on-texture items — pleated cotton pillowcases, sweater-knit throws — come in tones such as crisp navy, earthy orange and homey khaki, which can go together or cozy up to items you already own. “We thought about how you go into the bedrooms of married couples and see these oversized, bright floral duvets. Men must feel out of place there,” says brand co-founder Bob Williams.

Switching up the sheets and pillows works better if you consider the furniture you’re outfitting. “It’s fun to create a contrast, like putting an antique bed with a modern spread,” Worrell says. “If your bed is tailored, maybe throw a whimsical John Robshaw quilt on it.”

And if buying a bed takes up too much cash and square footage, “upholstered headboards add more texture and color to a space than a bed that matches the dresser that matches the nightstand,” Williams says. Custom headboards aren’t as spendy as beds, either (see sidebars). “You could also hang a rug on the wall above your bed to create a visual anchor,” Leavy says. “Suspend it from a drapery rod.”

However you outfit your bed, remember, “it’s really about creating a space that’s restful to you,” Leavy says. “It’s not a showplace; it’s an oasis.”

Which means you can hold onto your childhood “Sesame Street” sheets — as long as you combine them with that swanky quilted comforter.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

The Reelist



Up With 'Up'!

Since I write this column on a pretty tight deadline, I usually have to come up with an idea before I even know what I'll be writing about. So it was with the Oscars race. The nominations were announced Tuesday; the column is due Monday. I was going to argue that, thanks to the relatively



By Kristen Page-Kirby

recent addition of the Best Animated Picture category, Pixar's "Up" was going to be out of the running for Best Picture — where it rightfully belongs. And what happened? The Academy nominated it in both categories.

So here's the new column: It should win. Both.

Of all the nominees, "Up" does the best job combining the technical aspects of film with its storytelling potential. "Avatar" may be a visual stunner, but it's basically a modern version of "The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat," the 1896 film that shows ... a train pulling into a station. Because people had never seen, you know, moving pictures before, that was the Pandora of the 19th century.

"Up's" world was also created via state-of-the-art CGI, yet it's populated with characters that are intensely real — unlike those in most other animated films. In terms of cinematic innovation, it's more like 1902's "A Trip to the Moon," in which Georges Méliès used new technologies to both push the limits of moviemaking and tell a compelling story. "Up" is firmly grounded on Earth but reaches into the skies.

@ Comments? Give Kristen your feedback: expressnightout.com/thereelist



Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried star in "Dear John" as long-distance lovers who use that ancient device we call snail mail.

The Bitter End

'Dear John' is tenable at some points, but a late-game plot twist makes it hard to love

Film Review

Dear Nicholas Sparks, There's no easy way to say this. But with "Dear John," the latest of the five films made so far from your sentimental novels, I think our relationship is in trouble.

I could almost have forgiven you for some of your earlier indiscretions. "A Walk to Remember," for instance, from 2002, may have been mawkish as heck, but at least it had Mandy Moore. Ditto for 2004's syrup-laden "The Notebook," which featured strong performances by Ryan Gosling and

'Dear John'

- ▶ **Director:** Lasse Halstrom
- ▶ **Stars:** Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried, Richard Jenkins
- ▶ **In a Nutshell:** After a two-week romance, a soldier and a college student are separated and write a long series of letters to each other.
- ▶ **For Fans of:** "The Notebook," postage stamps, noble soldiers

Rachel McAdams.

It's not as though there's anything wrong with the stars of "Dear John," a story of young love and heartbreak centering on the long-distance romance and postal correspondence between a young soldier stationed in the Middle East and the collegiate dream girl he's known for all of two weeks. As John and Savannah, Channing Tatum

and Amanda Seyfried, respectively, make their whirlwind courtship about as believable as any spring-summer fling could be. Under the sensitive direction of Swedish filmmaker Lasse Halstrom ("My Life as a Dog"), the two share an effortless chemistry. Their connection, like a warm sea breeze, never feels forced.

I wish I could say the same thing about John's agoraphobic, coin-collecting father (Richard Jenkins). Sure, I loved the actor in "The Visitor," but his character here — who, it's hinted, suffers from something like Asperger syndrome — seems mannered and bordering on twitchy. Considering that, did you really need a second disabled character?

Savannah's next-door neighbor, an autistic kid named Allen

Scribe

Mr. Romance

If you think you're not familiar with the work of Nicholas Sparks, think again. Aside from "The Notebook" and "A Walk to Remember," Sparks also penned **MES-SAGE IN A BOTTLE** in 1998, which was turned into a movie in 1999 by Kevin Costner, who both produced and starred in the film. A more recent feature that Sparks can take credit for (or can be blamed for) is **NIGHTS IN RODANTHE**, the 2008 later-in-life romance flick starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane. Sparks penned the novel in 2002 and based some of it on his relationship with his now-wife, Cathy Cote. (EXPRESS)

(played at various ages by Reed and Luke Benward), comes across here as little more than a literary device.

I absolutely loved Allen's long-suffering father, Tim, played by Henry Thomas (Elliott from "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial"). He's turned into a strong actor. Then you went and ruined things.

No, I'm not upset by what eventually happens. You set me up for that by calling the darn thing "Dear John." Rather, it's the excuse you came up with for Savannah's actions. It feels like, well, a lie. Even Seyfried, who otherwise makes a credible love interest, couldn't convince me — or, by the sound of the audience's nervous laughter, anyone else in the theater — that she had to do what she did. Sorry, I just don't buy it.

Yours,
Michael O'Sullivan
(THE WASHINGTON POST)



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A Super (Bowl) Rock Reunion

Pete Townshend of the Who discusses playing the big game

Q&A

How did you and Roger Daltrey ultimately decide to play the Super Bowl halftime show?

We thought about it quite hard. I think Roger was doubtful that we should do it this year. We were going to play at Coachella, the New Orleans Jazz Festival; we had all kinds of things planned, so I persuaded Roger we should do the Super Bowl to kick those events off. And then I decided that I couldn't do that work later this year because I had to continue to write.

Most bands that play the Super Bowl use it as a platform to announce other projects.

The only two shows Roger and I are committed to together so far are the Super Bowl and then a concert version of "Quadrophenia" at Royal Albert Hall in March [for the Teenage Cancer Trust]. My hearing trouble makes it quite difficult for me to work in a studio for long periods of time. I have to be quite care-



Pete Townshend and Roger Daltrey will provide this year's halftime entertainment.

"I feel confident ... that when we do something like the Super Bowl, we do what we do very, very well."

ful not to work too much or not to tour too much.

This show, for us, is an example of what he and I can do together, waving the Who flag, carrying the flag for the boomer generation, just as Paul McCartney, Tom

Petty and the Stones have done previously.

It seems the Who's music is everywhere these days.

I broke up the Who in 1981 — we did a tour in '82 to say goodbye; we got back together in '89 to reminisce — but I had that long period between 1982 and 1989 where all I did was work on some solo stuff. But I was also learning how to run my catalog, learning how to be a publisher, learning how to make money outside of records and touring.

I developed quite a knack for it, and I was actually licensing songs for television, for commercials, for movies well before it was considered to be OK. I was one of the first artists to sit with journalists and answer to the idea that I was selling out a heritage and emotional catalog that didn't really belong to me — that belonged to my fans.

So, today I feel quite confident about the fact that when we do something like the Super Bowl, we do what we do very, very well — which is to play live — and it shines a light back on our work.

Talk about your relationship with Roger.

We've never hated each other in the way the press has sometimes portrayed, but we've never found it easy to get on with each other. We've never socialized very much, and we still don't. But what has emerged in the past 10 years, particularly with the death of [bassist] John Entwistle, which was the last big shock we went through, is a tremendously supportive friendship. Roger and I have become friends who can say that we love each other, and at our age that's wonderful. I've known Roger since I was 11 years old.

RAY WADDELL (BILLBOARD.COM)

We haven't mentioned the excellent Moneytown funk-and-soul throwdown in awhile, but we'd be remiss if we left out this month's edition of one of our favorite dance parties. DJ Nitecrawler and his crates of '60s and '70s vinyl will be joined tonight by David Griffiths. The New York soul fanatic and record collector founded Ever-Soul Records, an offshoot of soul heavyweights Daptone, to release classic seven-inch singles, and he's in the process of restoring the tracks from an unreleased vintage instrumental LP. Griffiths is a founding member of the popular New York City dance party Bumpshop, so we're sure he'll keep **DAHL-ACK's** dance floor full all night. As



Lemonheads front man Evan Dando is on the mic at IOTA this Saturday night.

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FRIDAY

Evan Dando still has that long, lustrous head of hair. You remem-

ber: Back in the '90s, it was as much his trademark as his ability to write tender, lovelorn pop songs as front man of the Lemonheads. Maybe the fact that he looks the same is one reason it's easy to stick with him, even if you can't name a new song he's written in the past 10 years. His current solo tour comes to terms with that fact. When Dando hits **IOTA**, it will be lots of Lemonheads hits and some other people's hits, as heard on the Lemonheads' recent all-covers album (Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful," anyone?).

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Nightlife Agenda

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lookout entertainment



Josh Duhamel and Kristen Bell play the getting-to-know-you game in "When in Rome."

Now Playing

AVATAR (PG-13, 161 minutes) As James Cameron proved in 1997's "Titanic," he has a penchant for melding spectacle and old-fashioned storytelling. Here, the narrative fulcrum is a classic boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl romance. Is the dialogue corny? You bet. Does the movie go kerblooey in its final moments, during a ferocious, explosive firefight that will leave your eyeballs bleeding? Uh-huh. But Cameron has delivered what he promised with "Avatar": an ambitious, fully immersive cinematic experience. (AH)

THE BOOK OF ELI (R, 118 minutes) Denzel Washington beautifully inhabits the film's titular hero, a laconic, solitary gunslinger who's also custodian of a mysterious tome, carried in his backpack as he travels through a burned-out landscape populated by cannibalistic "hijackers." Gary Oldman makes a great villain, tearing into the part of Carnegie, the corrupt, small-

town boss who also wants Eli's book for his personal library. (MO)

CRAZY HEART (R, 111 minutes) You don't have to be a fan of Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard, Townes Van Zandt, Doug Sahm and sundry other Texans and twangers to love this film. But it sure can't hurt. All those musicians are invoked by Jeff Bridges in this lovely, bittersweet romantic drama, in which he virtually channels country music's most storied outlaws, rule-benders and heartbreakers. Bridges plays Bad Blake, a grizzled singer-songwriter now performing on the Southwestern bowling alley circuit. Thanks to a compassionate, self-aware performance by Bridges and the superbly restrained filmmaking of first-time writer-director Scott Cooper, the film never wallows in self-pity or romanticized excess. (AH)

EDGE OF DARKNESS (R, 117 minutes) Like its hero, Boston police detective Tom Craven (Mel Gibson), this elaborate revenge fantasy is a methodical and workmanlike thing. After only about five minutes of mourning for his dead child (Bojana Novakovic), Craven washes the blood off his face and gets down to

business, running through the list of his daughter Emma's contacts from her cell phone, and systematically contacting them, one by one by one. Soon, he's unearthed a vast cabal, conspiracy and coverup involving Emma's defense-contractor employer (Danny Huston), a U.S. senator (Damian Young) and assorted suits, goons, shysters, heavies, fixers and hired guns. Like one of those

highway machines that plows down the middle of the road painting white lines, Craven goes after each of them with single-minded focus; the more Craven digs, the less mystery remains, until the movie is less thriller than foregone conclusion. **(M)**

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES (PG, 109 minutes) Harrison Ford makes a lovable curmudgeon in this earnest, for-

mulaic medical melodrama. Ford plays iconoclasm to its barking, snarling hilt as medical researcher Robert Stonehill listens to classic rock at full volume in his Nebraska lab and grumpily refuses to answer phone calls. One of the people he has been ignoring is John Crowley (Brendan Fraser), a Portland businessman who has a young son and daughter with a rare genetic disorder called Pompe disease.

Based on a true story, the film can't help but grip the heart and imagination, though it often gets bogged down in meetings, business plans and PowerPoint presentations. **(A-)**

INVICTUS (PG-13, 133 minutes) Matt Damon plays Francois Pienaar, the captain of the South African rugby team the Springboks, which in 1995 won the World Cup. The movie tells the story of that un-

likely and politically crucial victory, which as much as anything was the result of the gentle coaxing and adamant moral suasion of the country's new president, Nelson Mandela. Morgan Freeman doesn't play Mandela as much as inhabit the man, in a performance that seems to embody the very transcendence that Mandela himself has come to stand for. **(A-)**

Continued on page 32

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Greg Russell, MOVIE SHOW PLUS

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Lisa Fuller-Magee, KTVK-TV PHOENIX

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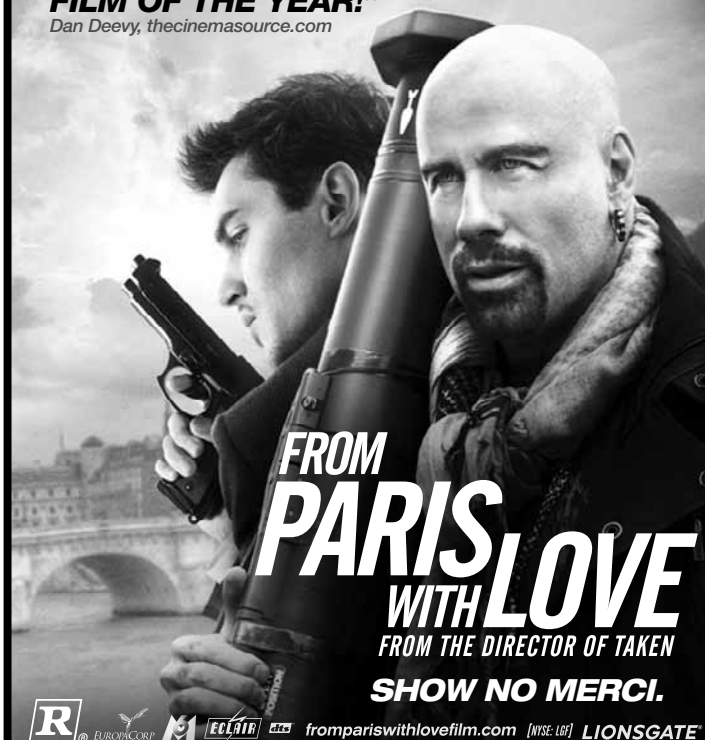
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Mel Gibson, left, returns to the big screen as an anger-crazed father seeking to avenge his daughter's death in "Edge of Darkness."



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Continued from page 31

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS (PG-13, 122 minutes)

This journey behind the literal and figurative looking glass marks a gratifying return to form for Terry Gilliam. And, as Heath Ledger's last film, it arrives with particular poignancy. The title character, played by a nearly unrecognizable Christopher Plummer, is an ancient street performer who oversees a ragtag band of buskers who ply the streets of contemporary London. But beware those who venture through the mirror behind him; they will find their imaginations in a cosmic moral tug-of-war between Parnassus and the malign Mr. Nick (Tom Waits), the kind of devil you can't help but dance and make deals with. (AH)

IT'S COMPLICATED (R, 199 minutes) As Jane and Jake Adler—10 years divorced and with three grown children, yet suddenly drawn back in each other's lives (and beds) after a drunken fling over the

weekend of their son's (Hunter Parrish) college graduation—Alec Baldwin and Meryl Streep pick up the movie and run away with it. The writing and direction, by rom-com veteran Nancy Meyers ("Something's Gotta Give"), are deft enough. But it's Streep and Baldwin's gamely ribald performances, and their seemingly effortless, effervescent chemistry, that put the pep in this movie's highly choreographed, yet richly entertaining step. (MO)

LEGION (R, 100 minutes) The assaulting hordes are demons and angels from heaven, and these angels and their spawn aren't taking any prisoners. God's given up on the human race and is ready to wipe us out—again. Profane, profanely silly and blasphemous to beat the band, the film begins well, then plunges into the abyss of tedium. Dennis Quaid, Lucas Black, Adrianne Palicki and others yell, "What the hell IS this?" as hell rains down on them. **ORLANDO SENTINEL**

THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13, 130 minutes) Peter Jackson's movie, based on the best-selling Alice Sebold novel, flagrantly disobeys the first law of ad-

aptation and, indeed, of filmmaking in general: Get the tone right. And tone is the first thing sacrificed in this shapeless, overlong, mawkishly muddled pop-up illustration of a movie. The protagonist is Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan), who in a voice-over narration explains that she was murdered in 1973 at age 14 by a neighbor. Most of the film transpires while Susie is in "the in-between," a candy-colored no-man's-land between heaven and Earth, where she watches her murderer (Stanley Tucci) hide in plain sight and her father (Mark Wahlberg) go mad with unresolved grief. (AH)

NINE (PG-13, 120 MINUTES) "Nine" bounces into theaters as a bright, shiny bauble of cinematic self-reference and mythologizing, begging so insistently to be loved that it winds up pushing the audience away. "Nine" is about Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis), a legendary Italian filmmaker who in 1965, on the eve of directing his latest picture, finds himself creatively blocked and preoccupied with the women in his life, madonnas and whores alike. (AH)

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13, 125 min-

utes) Directed by Guy Ritchie ("Rockn-Rolla") and starring Robert Downey Jr., the newest contribution to the world of Arthur Conan Doyle spin-offs is less a product of genuinely Holmesian DNA than, say, "Se7en." There's black magic here, too; Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong)—who has been going around London dispensing with people—has apparently risen from the dead. In the plus column is Downey's performance. There's nothing terribly wrong with Jude Law's performance as Holmes' right-hand man, though he's considerably less stuffy than traditionally portrayed. **(MO)**

THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG, 92 minutes)
Here we have yet another lazily kid-pleasing comedy about a man unprepared for fatherhood who's suddenly saddled with children who hate his guts and who he must win over in order to make time with their hot single mom. Here, it's Bob Ho (Jackie Chan), an intelligence agent on loan from China to the CIA who finds himself taking care of the three brats of his girlfriend, Gillian (Amber Valletta), when she's called out of town on a family medical emergency. The now 55-year-old martial arts star isn't the gymnast he once was. Chan's goofy, high-wattage charm may still burn brightly behind Bob's black geek glasses. But the performer's famously high-wire acrobatics are, for the most part, absent. One of the most daring stunts consists of rescuing a cat that's gotten itself stuck on Gillian's roof. **(M)**

TOOTH FAIRY (PG, 101 minutes) The Artist Formerly Known as the Rock shines as Derek Thompson, a once-promising pro hockey player now relegated to the minors who is sentenced to perform a bizarre kind of community service after almost destroying a little girl's (Destiny Whitlock) belief in the Tooth Fairy. When bitterness over his own career setback prompts Derek to blurt out to his girlfriend's (Ashley Judd) daughter that there's no such thing as you-know-who, he finds himself with a summons from the Department of the Dissemination of Disbelief, where a sort of executive fairy godmother (Julie Andrews) orders him to do time as one of her army of tooth fairies. **(MO)**

WHEN IN ROME (PG-13, 91 minutes) Kristen Bell, or any character she plays, should have eligible bachelors beating down her door. In this creakily contrived romantic comedy, she does. Will Arnett, Jon Heder, Dax Shepard and Danny DeVito


all play characters who fall profoundly in love with Bell's Beth, a chronically love-lorn curator at the Guggenheim Museum who returns from her sister's wedding in Rome to find herself suddenly pursued by more suitors than she knows what to do with. None of these dudes is really smitten with Beth at all. Instead, all four are under some kind of magic spell resulting from the fact that Beth

removed coins they threw into a wishing fountain in Rome. Beth, meanwhile, is also being pursued by Nick (Josh Duhamel), a charming sportswriter she met at the wedding, and for whom she's also starting to develop a few warm, squishy feelings of her own. After she learns about the curse, she comes to believe that Nick, like the others, is merely bewitched and that he doesn't actually like her. The bit actors

light up the screen when they're on; as pretty as they are, Bell and Duhamel just can't muster the same energy. **(MO)**

YOUTH IN REVOLT (R, 90 minutes) This comedy finds Michael Cera stuck in his same wispy, doe-eyed groove. In Miguel Arteta's adaptation of the C.D. Payne novel, audiences are still supposed to buy the 21-year-old Cera as high school student Nick Twisp, who lives in sex-ob-

seduced misery with his divorced mother. When Nick meets the disquietingly frank Sheeni Saunders (Portia Doubleday), he decides to do whatever it takes to be with her—a vow that will entail random acts of theft, arson and cross-dressing. **(AH)**

 BY WASHINGTON POST FILM CRITICS ANN HORNADAY AND MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN. FOR FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

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MUSIC BY RANDALL POSTER RICK CLARK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TOM POLLOCK JOE MEDJUCK TED BRAFFEN MICHAEL BEUGS
SUPERVISORS PRODUCED BY IVAN REITMAN JASON REITMAN DANIEL DUBICKI JEFFREY CLIFFORD BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY WALTER KIRN
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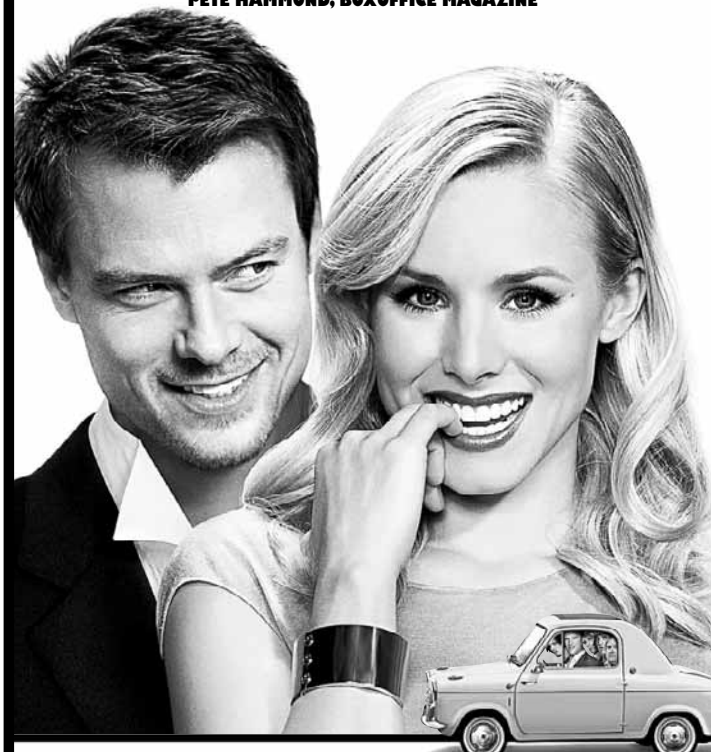
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KRISTEN BELL JOSH DUHAMEL WILL ARNETT JON HEDER DAX SHEPARD WITH DANNY DEVITO AND ANJELICA HUSTON
MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MINDY FARRELL STEVEN ROFFER EZRA SWERDLOW WRITTEN BY DAVID DIAMOND & DAVID WEISSMAN
PRODUCED BY GARY FOSTER MARK STEVEN JOHNSON ANDREW PANAY DIRECTED BY MARK STEVEN JOHNSON

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Text ROME with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)**

SORRY. NO PASSES

Compiled by Fiona Zublin. For more upcoming events, follow the Top Stops blog at expressnightout.com/topstops.



local movie times

◆ No Passes () Bargain Show Times

Washington DC

Landmark's E-Street Cinema www.landmarktheatres.com

HAROLD AND MAUDE (PG) 12:00
THE LAST STATION (R) (1:30, 4:15)7:15, 10:00
THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG) (4:35)9:35
AN EDUCATION (PG-13) (2:05)7:05
A SINGLE MAN (R) (1:40, 4:30)7:20, 9:40
CRAZY HEART (R) (2:00, 4:45)7:30, 10:15
BROKEN EMBRACES (R) (1:20, 4:10)7:00, 9:55
FISH TANK (NR) (12:50, 3:50)6:50, 9:50
CREATION (PG-13) (2:15, 5:00)7:40, 10:10
THE HURT LOCKER (R) (12:45, 3:45)6:45, 9:45

The Avalon Theatre www.theavalon.org

THE MESSENGER (R) 3:00, 8:15
A SERIOUS MAN (R) 12:30, 5:45
INVICTUS (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45

AMC Theaters www.amctheatres.com

EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

AMC Theaters www.amctheatres.com

DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) 2:00, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) 3:15, 7:00, 10:30
IN DIGITAL 3-D

AMC Theaters www.amctheatres.com

DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:30
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) 10:00, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
LEGION (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) 1:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
YOUTH IN REVOLT (R) 11:00 P.M.
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 10:05, 1:05, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) 10:50, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40
AMC Select
CRAZY HEART (R) 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30
INVICTUS (PG-13) 10:45, 1:50, 4:40, 7:55
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 10:35, 1:25, 4:40, 7:35, 10:35
AMC Select
AN EDUCATION (PG-13) 11:40, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40

Regal Cinemas www.regmovies.com

THE WOLFMAN (R)
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (11:30, 12:45, 2:10)3:45, 5:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30, 10:30, 12:10
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (11:40, 2:00)4:30, 7:15, 9:45, 12:20
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (12:05)
(2:20)4:45, 7:05, 9:20, 11:40
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (12:45)4:00, 7:00, 9:55, 12:35
LEGION (R) (12:20, 2:50)5:20, 8:10, 10:40
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (11:45, 2:25)5:05, 7:50, 10:30
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) 3:50, 10:10
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (1:30)4:10, 7:10, 9:50, 12:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (12:35)6:55
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (11:30, 12:50, 3:00, 4:40)6:30, 8:20, 10:00, 12:00
UP IN THE AIR (R) (12:30)3:20, 6:40, 9:10, 11:50
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (1:20)4:20, 7:30, 10:25
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) (11:50, 2:30) 5:10, 8:00, 10:35

1 Year of The Tiger
Happy new year! Chinese New Year, of course. What did you think? Our favorite way to celebrate, besides ordering take-out and watching the snow from indoors, is by going to the National Geographic Chinese New Year party. P.F. Chang's is bringing the free food, and National Geographic is handing out free tickets to the Terra Cotta Warriors exhibit. **F.Z. National Geographic, 1600 M St. NW; Sat., 11 a.m.-3 p.m., free; 202-857-7700. (Dupont Circle)**

2 Docu-Concert
The documentary-about-the-band genre has countless awesome entries, from "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" to "Almost Famous." We're very optimistic about "The Secret to a Happy Ending," about Southern rockers the Drive-By Truckers. The AFI has added a second screening at midnight, since the first one sold out. **F.Z. AFI Silver, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; Fri., midnight; 301- 495-6720. (Silver Spring)**

3 It's a Walk-Off
Every month, Town Danceboutique, everyone's favorite U Street uber-gay danceclub, holds a drag-queen competition. Here's how it works: You bring your fabulous self and a CD to which you'll perform. Town provides a judge and a series of tests of strength, agility and general awesomeness. **F.Z. Town, 2009 8th St. NW; Fri., 10:30 p.m., free to participate, \$5-\$10 to watch; 202-234-8696, Towndc.com. (Shaw)**

Virginia

Old Town Theatre www.oldtowntheatre.com

Call theatre for show information

Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse www.arlingtondrafthouse.com

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7:00 P.M.
THE HANGOVER (R) 9:50 P.M.

Regal Potomac Yards www.regmovies.com

THE WOLFMAN (R)
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) (2:10, 5:00)7:50, 10:40
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (12:50, 1:50, 3:35, 4:35)6:20, 7:20, 9:05, 10:10, 11:50
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:25, 5:25)7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 12:00
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (12:15, 2:55, 3:55)6:35, 7:35, 10:20, 11:20
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45)6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:45
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (1:50, 4:20)6:50, 9:20, 12:00
LEGION (R) (1:30, 4:15)7:10, 9:55
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (12:40, 3:30)8:10, 8:50
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (2:20, 5:15)8:10, 11:05
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) 6:40, 9:50
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (1:05)7:05
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (12:00)3:50, 7:00, 9:50
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (1:35, 4:05)
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (3:25)6:30, 9:40 (12:20)

Regal Kingstowne Stadium www.regmovies.com

THE WOLFMAN (R)
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (11:00, 1:40)4:30, 7:20, 10:10
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (12:10, 2:40)5:10, 7:50, 10:30
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (12:20)3:40, 6:50, 10:00
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (1:00)3:50, 7:00, 9:50
LEGION (R) (2:30)5:30, 8:10, 10:50
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (11:30, 2:10)4:50, 7:30, 10:20
THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) (11:40)A.M.
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (1:30)4:40, 7:40, 10:40
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) (11:50)3:00, 6:10, 9:20
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 3:20, 9:10
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (12:00)3:10, 6:20, 9:30
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (11:20, 1:50)4:20, 7:10
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (11:10, 12:30, 2:50)4:10, 6:40, 8:00, 10:10
UP IN THE AIR (R) (12:40)6:30
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 9:40 P.M.

Regal Ballston Common Stadium www.regmovies.com

THE WOLFMAN (R)
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (1:00, 2:00, 3:55, 4:45)6:50, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40
LEGION (R) (12:30, 3:00, 3:55)8:00, 10:30
CRAZY HEART (R) (12:20, 1:20, 3:20, 4:10)6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (12:50, 4:00)7:00, 10:05
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (12:00, 2:40, 3:40)6:20, 7:20, 10:00
AVATAR (PG-13) (4:20)8:00
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) (1:30)
UP IN THE AIR (R) (1:50, 4:30)7:40, 10:30
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) (12:40, 4:25)7:10, 9:50
AN EDUCATION (PG-13) (1:40, 4:40)7:05, 9:55

AMC Theatres Courthouse Plaza www.amctheatres.com

DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) 1:15, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) 4:00, 10:10
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05
INVICTUS (PG-13) 1:10, 7:10
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

AMC Theatres Hoffman Center www.amctheatres.com

Alexandria
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 10:35, 12:05, 1:30, 3:00, 4:40, 6:10, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35, 12:00
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 11:10, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:35, 5:30, 7:30, 8:15, 10:10, 11:15
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35, 12:05
AMC Select
PREACHER'S KID (PG-13) 10:20, 1:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:25
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) 11:00, 12:15, 2:00, 3:15, 5:00, 6:20, 8:00, 9:20, 11:00
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) 10:05, 12:55, 3:45, 6:35, 9:30, 12:15
LEGION (R) 10:45, 1:35, 4:35, 7:40, 10:20
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) 10:15, 1:25, 4:20, 7:35, 10:40
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) 6:40, 9:55
THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) 11:05, 1:35, 4:10
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 11:15, 2:30, 5:45, 9:00, 12:00
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) 10:00, 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) 10:40, 1:10, 3:40
AMC Select
UP IN THE AIR (R) 11:45, 2:35, 5:20, 8:10, 11:20
AVATAR: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:30, 3:25, 7:15, 11:05
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) 10:30, 12:30, 2:15, 4:15, 6:00, 8:05, 9:45, 11:55
IN DIGITAL 3-D
AMC Select
CRAZY HEART (R) 10:10, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) 10:25, 1:15
AMC Select
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) 4:25, 7:25, 10:15
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 6:15, 9:25
AMC Select
AN EDUCATION (PG-13) 10:55, 1:45, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30

Maryland

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center www.afi.com/silver

Silver Spring
UP IN THE AIR (R) 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30
THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG) 12:15, 5:00, 9:40
THE HURT LOCKER (R) 2:20, 7:05
MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN (NR) 4:30 P.M.
BRINGING UP BABY (NR) 7:00 P.M.
THE SECRET TO A HAPPY ENDING (NR) 9:15, 12:00

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema www.landmarktheatres.com

Bethesda
CRAZY HEART (R) (1:45, 4:30)7:15, 10:00
A SINGLE MAN (R) (1:50, 4:25)7:10, 9:30
THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG) (1:40, 4:20)7:05, 9:35
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) (1:35, 4:10)6:40, 9:10
UP IN THE AIR (R) (2:00, 4:40)7:20, 9:50
THE LAST STATION (R) (1:30, 4:15)7:00, 9:45
THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS (PG-13) (1:15, 4:00)6:45, 9:25
AN EDUCATION (PG-13) (1:25, 4:05)6:30, 9:15

AMC Loews Center Park www.amctheatres.com

Beltsville
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 2:00, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) 1:40, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40
LEGION (R) 1:10, 3:35, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45
EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES (PG) 7:35, 10:05
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50
1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20
AVATAR (PG-13) 3:00, 6:30, 10:00

AMC Loews White Flint www.amctheatres.com

Kensington
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) 10:30, 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45
AMC Select
UP IN THE AIR (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center www.amctheatres.com

Largo
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) 11:30, 12:35, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:30, 12:00
AMC Select
PREACHER'S KID (PG-13) 10:45, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) 10:35, 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
LEGION (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:20
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 12:05
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) 11:00, 1:15
AMC Select
UP IN THE AIR (R) 10:40, 4:10, 10:10
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) 12:05, 3:25, 6:55, 10:25
IN DIGITAL 3-D
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) 11:05, 1:35
AMC Select
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) 3:45, 6:45, 9:45, 12:15
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 1:10, 7:10
Regal Bethesda www.regmovies.com
Bethesda
THE WOLFMAN (R)
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (1:10, 3:20, 5:45)8:00, 10:25
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (2:05, 4:35)7:10, 9:50
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (2:30, 4:50)7:15, 9:30
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (2:20, 5:00)7:40, 10:15
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (1:50, 4:20)6:40, 9:15
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (2:15, 4:55)7:45, 10:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (1:30, 4:30)7:30, 10:30
IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (2:00, 4:40)7:20, 10:05
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (3:30)7:00, 10:20
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (1:40, 4:00)6:50, 9:40

Regal Majestic Cinema www.regmovies.com

Silver Spring
THE WOLFMAN (R)
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (12:10, 12:55, 3:00, 3:50, 5:20) 6:15, 8:00, 8:55, 10:40, 11:30
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (11:30, 12:40, 2:00, 3:30, 4:30)6:00, 7:00, 8:35, 9:30, 11:05, 12:00
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (11:45, 1:15, 3:15, 4:35)6:45, 7:50, 10:15, 11:20
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (11:40, 2:10, 4:50)7:05, 9:20, 11:40
(1:00, 3:35, 5:50)8:25, 10:45
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (12:15, 2:55, 4:40, 5:35)7:15, 8:15, 10:10, 11:00
AN EDUCATION (PG-13) (11:50, 2:05, 4:20)7:25, 9:50, 12:10
LEGION (R) (11:10, 1:50, 5:15)7:40, 10:00, 12:20
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (12:25, 2:50, 5:40)8:05, 10:30
THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) (11:50, 2:35)
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (10:55, 1:45, 4:45)7:30, 10:25
CRAZY HEART (R) (11:25, 1:05, 2:30, 3:40, 5:00)6:25, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35, 11:45
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (11:00, 2:00, 3:50, 4:50)6:40, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) 7:10, 10:05
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) (12:00, 2:40, 5:05)
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) (11:00, 1:25, 4:15)
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (11:35, 2:20, 5:25)8:10, 10:55
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) (12:50, 4:00)6:50, 9:40, 12:15

Regal Royale Stadium www.regmovies.com

Hyattsville
THE WOLFMAN (R)
VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)
DEAR JOHN (PG-13) (1:10, 3:45)6:45, 9:35
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (R) (1:40, 2:10, 4:30, 5:00)6:55, 7:25, 9:25, 10:05
EDGE OF DARKNESS (R) (1:00, 2:00, 3:50, 4:50)6:40, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30
WHEN IN ROME (PG-13) (1:20, 3:40)7:50, 10:25
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) (1:35, 4:00)6:50, 9:40
LEGION (R) (1:30, 3:55)7:00, 9:30
THE BOOK OF ELI (R) (1:50, 4:40)7:30, 10:20
THE LOVELY BONES (PG-13) (1:25)7:15
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (4:20)10:10
AVATAR 3D (PG-13) (1:05, 4:35)8:00
UP IN THE AIR (R) (1:55, 4:25)7:05, 9:50
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) (1:15, 4:10)7:10, 10:00
PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) (1:45, 4:15)7:20, 10:15
P and G Montgomery Mall Cinema www.regmovies.com
Bethesda
UP IN THE AIR (R) 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45
TOOTH FAIRY (PG) 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
THE SPY NEXT DOOR (PG) 7:30, 9:30
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG) 3:05, 5:05

TV weekend **lookout**

Bosses in Low Places

Suits walk a mile in the shoes of their employees on CBS

Premiere

SUN 10:00 CBS presents a post-Super Bowl helping of the new series "Undercover Boss."

As the title implies, every week a new CEO will work and mingle with his employees to learn ways to make his company function better. In tonight's preview, the CEO of a large waste-management firm pretends to be part of a documentary film about the first day of work at various jobs. He travels the country to work at a recycling sorting center; picks up trash near a landfill; encounters a talented if uncompensated multitasker at an understaffed office; and spends a day cleaning out portable toilets.

Combining elements "Dirty Jobs" and "The Prince and the Pauper," this series puts the emphasis



Larry O'Donnell, the president of a waste-management company, heads into the field.

on uplift and enlightenment. In almost every case, the big boss discovers that his employees are doing their best and that often it's his very policies that make their jobs — and their lives — more difficult. And during the tearful concluding "reveal," he promises to actually listen — something that seems to mean more to his employees than any monetary rewards.

"Boss" marks a sea change for

reality television. Earlier on, "The Simple Life" extolled the "hilarity" of watching spoiled socialites trashing humble, friendly people and ridiculing their "boring" existence. And this show will not end the woes of America's overworked and underemployed, and it will probably not result in changes in the behavior of CEOs. But it's a step in the right direction. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Best Bets

FRI 9:00

Medium (CBS) She's grown accustomed to that face — because she's seeing it everywhere. Allison is perplexed when she keeps seeing the same guy's face on everyone — including her own husband. Diedrich Bader guest-stars as the man in Allison's visions.



FRI 10:00

NUMB3RS (CBS) The theft of millions of dollars worth of jewels during the broadcast of an awards show thrusts the team into the spotlight. An old case is preying on Don, while Larry returns from his adventure in the desert. Marilu Henner and William Katt guest-star.

SAT 8:00

Temple Grandin (HBO) Claire Danes stars as the title character in this made-for-TV movie as a young woman who overcame the challenges of autism to become an author, lecturer and animal advocate.

SUN 7:00



Nature (PBS) "The Beauty of Ugly" looks at frogfish, hagfish, naked mole rats and elephant seals. Though they may not be the sort of critter you want to carry a snapshot of, their distinct looks help them survive. The show also focuses on vultures, warthogs and proboscis monkeys. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Sports



Super-Cute

If you're looking for an awww-fully adorable alternative to the Super Bowl, or even just a safe place to park the kids while the grown-ups watch the game, you can't miss with "Puppy Bowl VI" (3 p.m., Animal Planet, Sun.). It's not exactly high-tech — it's just a bunch of pups frolicking in a stadium-shaped pen, with a half-time show "performed" by kittens. It airs multiple times, in case you want to watch both games. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

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Tickets may also be purchased after February 6 and on-site at full admission prices. Prices include tax. There is an additional administrative fee of \$2.50 per ticket ordered in advance. Discount does not apply to tickets already purchased. Picture I.D. required. No one under 21 admitted. Children and infants not permitted. No refunds available.



The Washington Post

If you don't get it, you don't get it.



Poll Center

Today's Question

DO AREA SCHOOLS CANCEL CLASSES TOO QUICKLY DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Thursday's Results

WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL THIS SUNDAY?



"The Saints will win a close one; every questionable call will be in their favor because of their fruitless history and Katrina. "

COMMENTER MASON SPENCER

"The Colts have not lost a meaningful game all season. I would not count them out in the one game that means the most."

COMMENTER GARRETT IRBY

"Wait, the Redskins aren't in the Super Bowl?"

COMMENTER DIOGENES

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

"'Fast & Furious' was Universal's top-grossing movie of last year with an unimpressive \$155 million. In second was 'Couples Retreat' with \$109 million. You've got to love a studio that survives by rehashing a franchise like this one for its fifth go-around."

— **FIRSTSHOWING.NET** CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE MOVIE STUDIO IS PLANNING TO RELEASE "FAST FIVE," STARRING VIN DIESEL AND PAUL WALKER.

"WHAT REALLY PEEVES me about all this is that for 30 years almost, no one gave crap until lead singer Colin Hay admitted in a TV interview recently that they had used the melody to inject a bit of Aussie humor and feeling into the song."

— **RUSTYLIME.COM** FINDS IT PRETTY LAME THAT THE AUSTRALIAN BAND MEN AT WORK IS FACING A MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR PLAGIARISM SUIT FOR ITS SONG "DOWN UNDER," WHICH INCLUDED PARTS OF THE CHILDREN'S FOLK TUNE "KOOKABURRA SITS IN THE OLD GUM TREE."



"If I didn't know better, I would have thought it was the day before Thanksgiving. Or Christmas. Or some other holiday where people gorge on food and wine."

— **FEASTAFTERFAMINE.COM** WAS SHOCKED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN GROCERY STORES THURSDAY DUE TO THE FORECAST OF A MAJOR SNOWSTORM THIS WEEKEND.



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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You should be able to proceed with current plans without fear of interruption or distraction — at least until after dark.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your work is likely to take you late into the day, demanding a great deal of stamina and focus on your part. Are you up to the challenge?

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will receive valuable information simply by talking with others about current circumstances. You may have missed a key development.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may have to work hard to keep your passions under control. A certain person, in a certain situation, is sure to get you fired up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may actually be too clever for your own good. Take the time to sit back and let others figure things out; you'll gain valuable perspective.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Now is no time to throw away the rulebook. You'll want to do things in accordance with the requirements set down by those who have gone before.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your restlessness may be frustrating on the one hand, but it can also prove quite valuable on the other — as you seek creative outlets.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) An error made early in the day may actually be advantageous to you later on. You can learn much from the reactions of your competitors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) A loved one wants more from you than you have been giving of late — and you have a priceless opportunity to reaffirm your commitment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Routine, while boring to you so much of the time, may actually provide you with a welcome respite. You can slow things down just a bit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You want no part of a plan that has no clear-cut conclusion. You want results and a finite timeline that can be followed throughout.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You may find it difficult to say what needs to be said, but it will be up to you to say it before it's too late.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 140-150, BEST SCORE 204

A ₁	E ₁	I ₁	I ₁	M ₃	R ₁	T ₁



RACK 1

E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	G ₂	D ₂	R ₁	N ₁

3rd Letter
Double



RACK 2

E ₁	O ₁	O ₁	L ₁	R ₁	B ₃	L ₁



RACK 3

E ₁	O ₁	O ₁	D ₂	F ₄	R ₁	B ₃

Double
Word Score



RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

T ₁	H ₄	E ₁	R ₁	M ₃	A ₁	L ₁	RACK 1 =	74	
I ₁	M ₃	I ₁	T ₁	A ₁	T ₁	E ₁	RACK 2 =	59	
S ₁	P ₃	A ₁	N ₁	I ₁	E ₁	L ₁	RACK 3 =	65	
B ₃	E ₁	E ₁	T ₁	L ₁	E ₁		RACK 4 =	8	
PAR SCORE 145-155								TOTAL	206

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

				1		4		
			5				7	
		9			7	3	6	
		8		2	3			6
		3				7		
9			1	8		2		
	6	5	3			9		
	3				4			
		2		6				

Yesterday's Solution

6	4	1	3	7	8	9	5	2
2	3	7	4	5	9	8	1	6
5	8	9	2	1	6	4	7	3
8	5	4	7	9	3	6	2	1
7	1	6	5	4	2	3	8	9
3	9	2	8	6	1	7	4	5
9	7	5	1	3	4	2	6	8
4	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	7
1	2	3	6	8	7	5	9	4

Need more Sudoku?
Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast



36 | 28

Today: Breezy today and tonight with snow, becoming heavy.



30 | 21

Tomorrow: Very windy tomorrow with snow; storm total 8-16". Clearing at night.

Looking Ahead



SUN



MON



TUE

30 | 19 35 | 21 33 | 24

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 7:11 a.m.
Sunset today: 5:34 p.m.
Moonrise today: 12:23 a.m.
Moonset today: 10:30 a.m.

Almanac

Normal high: 44
Record high: 70
Normal low: 28
Record low: 2

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

Crossword

ACROSS

1 North Atlantic food
fish
5 Gowns'
companions
9 Late-summer
bloom
14 Have a few too
many
15 Varied mixture
16 Wild dog of Asia
17 Redundant
partner of "done
with"
18 "Arrivederci ____"
19 Palindromic form
of address
20 Pay attention
22 Sainly images
(var.)
23 Hang in there
24 Fill to the gills
26 Pulverize
potatoes
29 Book after Job
33 Actor Jack and
NBA-er Spud
37 Gross-weight

deduction
39 Stunt plane
maneuver
40 ___-trigger
temper
41 DNA structure
42 Currency abroad
43 Back 40 unit
44 Australian gem
45 Plume provider
46 Slave
48 Indecent
50 Success for Rocky
52 Fabricate
57 Early Irish
alphabet
60 Go on and on
63 First of six popes
64 Broadcast, as
radio waves
65 Fish-eating eagle
66 "Manhattan"
director
67 Hyperbolic
function
68 Spanish theater
69 Hagar the
Horrible's wife

70 Important time periods
71 Largo and West

DOWN

1 Scarf made of fur
2 Hags' assembly
3 Cause to topple over
4 Lost in Paris?
5 Eye part
6 Shower gel ingredient
7 Native American from Arizona
8 Flies like an eagle
9 Shows honesty, in a way
10 "Hurry up!"
11 List heading
12 Enthusiastic vigor
13 Deep sleep stages
21 Octopus' abundance
25 Tippy-top
27 Baby-book first
28 Islamic equivalent of kosher
30 Facial expression

of displeasure
 31 Twist's request
 32 Canine of kiddie
 literature
 33 Inquiry starter
 34 Individually
 35 Whirring sound
 36 Expression of
 luck
 38 Bug
 41 Sacred
 45 Dame Everage
 47 Thin layer
 49 Lateral

measurements
51 Beyond zaftig
53 Type of tee
54 Inspiring fear
55 Mary Poppins
was one
56 Shade providers
57 Brightly
colored fish
58 Sayers of
football
59 Seed cover
61 Arab prince
62 Columbus craft

Yesterday's Solution

[illegible]

DITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

SLIGHT ADJUSTMENTS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
23								24	25					
				26		27	28		29			30	31	32
33	34	35	36			37		38			39			
40					41						42			
43					44					45				
46					47			48		49				
				50			51		52		53	54	55	56
57	58	59				60	61	62						
63						64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

Samurai Sudoku

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

DIFFICULT

[illegible]

Today in History

1994 White separatist Byron De La Beckwith is convicted in Jackson, Miss., of murdering civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963.

2005 Quarterbacks Steve Young and Dan Marino are elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

2009 USA Swimming suspends Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps for three months after a photo showing him inhaling from a marijuana pipe became public.

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STAFF: PUBLISHER—CHRISTOPHER MA | GENERAL MANAGER—ARNIE APPLEBAUM | EDITOR—DAN CACCAVARO | WEB EDITOR—GREG BARBER
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TALENT

Being On-Key Is for Wannabes and Fakers

The head of Taylor Swift's record label is defending the singer against harsh criticism of her Grammy performance, claiming that a technical issue impacted her act. "This is not 'American Idol,'" said Big Machine CEO Scott Borchetta. "This is about a true artist and writer and communicator." (AP)

CAUSES

Heiress Died From Diabetes Complications

Johnson & Johnson heiress Casey Johnson died of diabetic ketoacidosis, a complication of type 1 diabetes, the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office announced. The full autopsy report will be released within the next two weeks. Johnson, 30, was found dead Jan. 4 at her Los Angeles home. She was engaged to Tila Tequila. (EXPRESS)



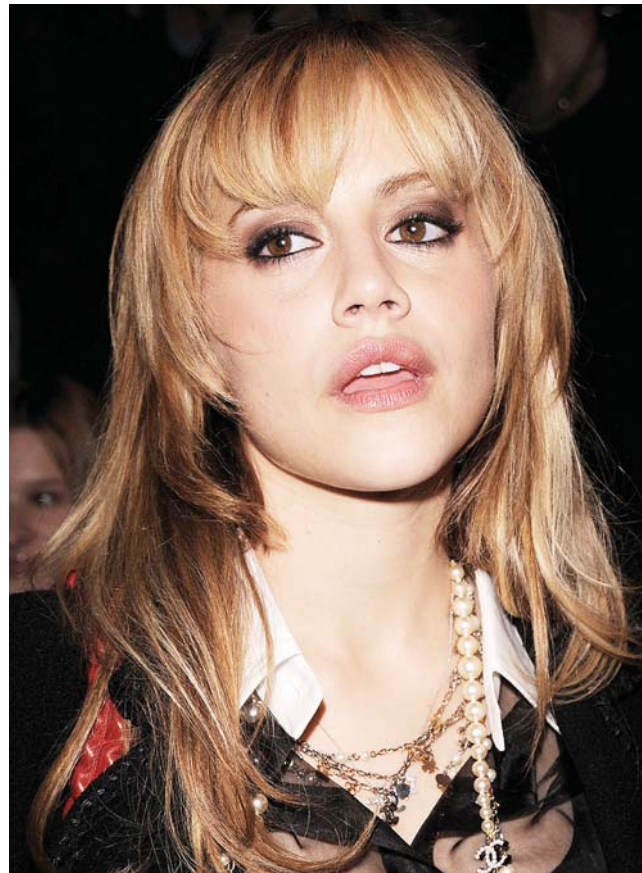
DAN STEINBERG/AP

The coroner's office called Johnson's death "natural," ruling out foul play.

Ex-Child Stars

**L.A. Subway Loses Only Rider**

Former teen idol Leif Garrett has been released from jail on a charge he carried heroin into a Los Angeles subway station. A sheriff's spokesman says Garrett denied having drugs at first, then acknowledged that he had black tar heroin in his shoe. Garrett was arrested in 2006 at another Los Angeles subway stop for having heroin. (AP)



PETER KRAMER/AP

CAUSES

Illness Killed Murphy

Brittany Murphy died from pneumonia, but iron-deficiency anemia and multiple prescription drugs also played a role, Los Angeles coroner's officials said. The death was ruled accidental. Details about the drugs Murphy had in her system will be released in several weeks when a complete report is done. Murphy died Dec. 20 at age 32 after collapsing at her Hollywood Hills home. (AP)



PERSONAL BEST

Wayne Newton on This Page Two Days in a Row

Wayne Newton owes a Michigan airport more than \$60,000 after abandoning his plane more than three years ago. Oakland County International Airport President Joe Borgesen says the plane was flown into the airport to have interior work done. He said Newton initially paid storage fees but then stopped. (AP)

"Did ya'll miss me?? I see all the OG's here! YAY! No more filthy haters and Media peeps following! Secret page! Xox"



— TILA TEQUILA. AFTER SWEARING OFF TWITTER AND DELETING HER FEED TUESDAY, SHE'S BACK WITH A NEW ACCOUNT. THE NONSENSE CONTENT REMAINS THE SAME.



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